

Reformer quits Italian Christian Democrats

ROME (AP) — One of Italy's leading hopes for reforming the nation's political life quit the dominant Christian Democrat party Monday, accusing it of opening the door to corruption and the mafia. Mario Segni's bitter announcement struck as the country and his party were reeling from the announcement over the weekend that seven-time Premier Giulio Andreotti, the party's leading figure, was under investigation for mafia ties. In a further sign of political confusion, Socialist Party leader Giorgio Benvenuto called for a new, broader-based government before the date, in effect withdrawing support from Socialist Premier Giuliano Amato. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who would appoint a new premier, called in the leaders of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies for a meeting Tuesday morning to discuss the political situation. Mr. Segni's departure could set in motion a new force for renewal as well as the bombing of the once-mighty Christian Democrats. Discontented members and reform-minded small parties could well rally under his flag. Mr. Segni, 53, a prominent member of the Chamber of Deputies, has been an increasingly influential thorn in the side of the Christian Democrats, which has been the dominant party in every postwar Italian government.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة منشورة بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iran wants ex-Soviet Muslims protected

DUBAI (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Tehran Monday that Muslims in the republics of the former Soviet Union should be reassured of their rights. Mr. Kozyrev is visiting Iran in a bid to contain Iran and its growing influence in the former Soviet Muslim republics. Mr. Rafsanjani told him: "Muslims should not feel that following the collapse of communism in what used to be the Soviet Union there are still certain powers seeking to undermine them." This can in the long run lead to Muslims losing their trust in and sincerity towards these governments and can be finally detrimental to the region and the whole world. Mr. Rafsanjani said the two countries' common interests, particularly in the Caspian Sea, required them to work hard for progress and development. IRNA quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying Russia was eager to expand cooperation with Iran and they should both seek to restore stability in some countries in the region. Mr. Kozyrev, whose country has sold Iran sophisticated weapons since the collapse of the Soviet Union, said on arrival the two countries would sign a long-term cooperation accord. This would include measures on "bilateral cooperation for guaranteeing stability in the region and combating terrorism and sabotage."

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Former pro-Israeli militiaman killed

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen killed a former member of Israel's Lebanese militia ally in South Lebanon Monday, security sources said. They said three gunmen in a speeding car opened fire at 23-year-old Hassan Ghanam, who quit the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia last year. In a separate incident in the south, two pro-Israeli militiamen were wounded in a firefight with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security organ in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp. The clash erupted when the militiamen refused to stop their car at a checkpoint in the camp, east of the port city of Sidon.

Yemeni minister visits UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Yemen's foreign minister arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday to try to mend relations which soured over Yemen's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Abdul Kareem Al Iryani would deliver a letter to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan from Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mr. Iryani's visit is the first by a senior Yemeni government official to the UAE since Yemen strained its relations with Gulf Arab states when it showed support for Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Yemen lost \$1.4 billion in annual remittances from a million Yemenis expelled from Gulf Arab states, which also stopped financial aid to the country. In January one of Yemen's two ruling parties called for repairing relations with Gulf Arab states.

Woman drug smuggler kills herself

ADEN (R) — A woman killed herself at Aden airport when customs officers found she was carrying bags of sweets stuffed with heroin, security sources said Monday. Ilham Mohammad Hassan Yassin, 25, had nine kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$13 million when she arrived from Bombay Thursday, they said. She held a Djibouti passport and was booked to fly to Djibouti the next day. A customs officer searching her bag found sacks of sweets and asked her for one to give to his children. He alerted airport security when she instead offered him \$200 and a valuable watch. When security men decided to make a second search, Ms. Yassin took two red capsules from her purse, swallowed them and seconds later fell to the floor and died.

Israel returns some artefacts to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Monday turned over to Egypt a first batch of archaeological objects it dug up during its 15-year occupation of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Among the artefacts were 10 tombstones from the Byzantine period decorated with a human figure or crosses and the inscription: "He was a good soul, possessed a good portion in this world, no one lives forever." Egypt also was given hundreds of ceramic vessels found in the cargo hold of a ship that sank off Sharm Al Sheikh in the 18th century, said antiquities authority spokeswoman Efrat Orbach. Israel excavated hundreds of Christian and Muslim artefacts after it occupied Sinai in the 1967 war. It kept them until it returned the peninsula in 1982 under the peace treaty it reached with Egypt three years earlier.

Defence lawyers quit Egypt trial

HALEKSTAP (AP) — Defence lawyers for 43 suspected Muslim extremists charged with attacking foreign tourists quit the case Monday because the military judge refused a fifth postponement. Abdul Halim Mandour, leader of the 12-lawyer team, had told Major General Mohammad Wagdi Al Leithy they were too busy with two other Muslim extremist trials to present an adequate defence. Gen. Leithy ruled that four postponements to provide time for defence lawyers to read investigation files was enough.

Arabs defer response to invitation to bilaterals

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The four Arab parties to peace talks with Israel Monday postponed a decision on resuming negotiations with the Jewish state, saying they needed more time to discuss with Washington a formula that will get the peace process back on track.

After two days of talks, the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) criticised the United States for failing to pressure Israel to repatriate nearly 400 Palestinians, whose expulsion in December led to the suspension of the peace process.

They also complained that Washington has done little to push forward the peace process, launched 17 months ago, and said they viewed with "suspicion" Israel's contacts with the Clinton administration.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria read a three-page communique at the end of three sessions with his counterparts Kamel Abu Jaber of Jordan,

Faris Bouez of Lebanon and Farouk Kaddoumi of the PLO. The four parties' chief negotiators at the peace process also attended.

The communique stressed that the four sides were committed to a united position regarding Washington's invitation for resuming the talks on April 20. They agreed to meet again in Damascus before that date to announce their final stance.

Explaining the delay, Mr. Sharaa told reporters the Arabs needed time "in order to conduct more consultations with the American sponsor and remove obstacles from the path of the peace process."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who was in Cairo Monday, implied that the final decision depended on the outcome of a meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Bill Clinton in Washington April 6.

"I put great hope on President Mubarak's visit to contribute effectively to remove these obstacles (to the talks)," Mr. Arafat said.

The Damascus gathering con-

vened amid escalating Arab-Israeli violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in South Lebanon.

The ministers' communique condemned Israel's human rights record in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It urged the United Nations to force Israel to allow the return of the 396 expellees, who have been stranded in South Lebanon since Dec. 17, and suggested that the world body extract "a pledge from Israel that it will not resort to the deportation policy in the future."

The ministers, the communique said, expressed "concern at the American role, which has not led to the achievement of progress in the peace process so far."

It said a recent visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "raised suspicions and increased Arab concern on the future of the peace process."

The U.S. administration has been widely criticised in the Arab

(Continued on page 5)

Congress adjourns after weakening Yeltsin further

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's congress Monday agreed to a referendum on whether to hold new elections for the president and parliament and then adjourned, ending a four-day challenge to Boris Yeltsin's power.

Frustrated lawmakers, who failed to oust Mr. Yeltsin Sunday, stripped him of more power Monday. Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov closed the emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies by claiming that the lawmakers had blocked "an attempted coup d'etat." He did not mention Mr. Yeltsin by name.

"Congress has defended the constitution in critical circumstances," Mr. Khasbulatov said. "For the first time in Russia we have managed to prevent unconstitutional actions, but the thrust of them has not yet been completely stopped."

The legislature voted to challenge the constitutionality of a public statement by Mr. Yeltsin that a move to impeach him amounted to a communist coup attempt.

Minutes after he narrowly survived impeachment Sunday, Mr. Yeltsin launched strong accusations against the congress at a

rally near the Kremlin.

"The (impeachment) scenario was prepared by specialists from the former Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and it was for that reason that the communist coup failed," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The congress resolution said the constitutional court should consider whether speeches made at the rally were legal. It also

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Yeltsin counts on people, page 4
Yeltsin acts to raise living standards, page 7

Balladur to form French cabinet

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand Monday named former Finance Minister Edouard Balladur the new premier of France following the landslide victory by the right in legislative elections that knocked the Socialists from government.

Mr. Balladur, 63, of the conservative Rally for the Republic Party (RPR), had been considered the most likely man to succeed Premier Pierre Berégovoy, who resigned earlier Monday.

In an unusual move marking the size of the Socialist defeat, Mr. Mitterrand left tradition aside to announce who would serve as premier.

The president chooses the premier but normally leaves the announcement to a spokesman. "In electing a very big new French right steps into a minefield," page 4

New government has narrow economic options, page 7

No seats for National Front, page 8



Edouard Balladur

U.N. retains sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council Monday decided to maintain sweeping economic sanctions against Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright said Iraq still had not complied with its obligations under the ceasefire resolution ending the 1991 Gulf war.

"All sanctions remain in place," Mr. Albright said. She spoke to reporters after closed Security Council consultations in which members decided without taking a vote to maintain the sanctions. The sanctions policy is reviewed every 60 days, and the continuation of the restrictions had been expected.

President Bill Clinton "has made very clear that the United States remains firm in making sure Iraq complies with all sanctions and that is what we did today," Mr. Albright said. "Iraq has a number of unfulfilled obligations."

The U.S. ambassador said Iraq had not eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction or accepted long-term U.N. monitoring of its weapons programme as required by the Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

"They have not ceased massive repression of its civilian population and they are not allowing cooperation with international relief efforts," she added.

The U.S. envoy said Baghdad also has not accepted the actions of a U.N. commission demarcating the boundary with Kuwait, nor has it accounted for and released all Gulf war detainees. She said it also has not returned hundreds of millions of dollars in Kuwaiti property taken during the Iraqi occupation.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said Monday it had evidence Iraq had recently shipped an unspecified amount of oil to Iran in violation of Security Council resolutions.

"Because of the nature of our information there's a limited amount I can say on this subject. But we can confirm a shipment of oil from Iraq to Iran," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Such shipments are illegal under the U.N. sanctions. Mr. Boucher said Washington remained committed to gaining full Iraqi compliance with all U.N. resolutions and noted this required the full support of the international community, including Iran, which fought a war with neighbouring Iraq from 1980-88.

"We have made our views known to Iran through diplomatic channels," Mr. Boucher said. He declined to say how much oil had been shipped and when, but an administration official said

(Continued on page 3)

MEES reports Iraqi oil shipments to Iran and Turkey; Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq, page 2.

King attends army celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended a celebration organised by the Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein Battalion marking its anniversary and the birthday of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein.

King Hussein was received at the celebration site by the commander of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and senior army officers.

At the beginning of the celebration, the King was briefed by the commander of the battalion on its duties.

The King voiced pride in the battalion's personnel. "I implore God to grant us luck in performing our duty and keeping our banner high and continuing our march on the path of our fathers and



forefathers in defending the right of this nation to a free life and to perform our duty towards the coming generations," the King said.

The King also visited an exhibition of weapons and equipment used by the unit. At the end of the celebration, the unit's commander presented Prince Hamzeh with a present on the occasion of his birthday.

Israeli killed in settlement in sealed-off Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Jewish settler was fatally stabbed Monday in the occupied Gaza Strip, sealed off from Israel due to a wave of Arab knife attacks, the army and settlers said.

Jewish settler Shaya Deutch, 38, was stabbed in his greenhouse in the Kfar Yam settlement and died of his wounds an hour later. Israel sealed off the Strip Sunday after another Israeli was stabbed to death there by Palestinian labourers hired by him to build a house.

A 35-year-old Palestinian man was shot and seriously wounded Monday when soldiers opened fire towards a group of youths throwing stones at them in the Gaza village of Abasan, Palestinians said.

The slaying marked the 10th Israeli killed so far this month. The army closed off the Gaza Strip before dawn, barring more than 30,000 Gaza labourers from getting to their jobs in Israel.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press the closure would continue Tuesday, but will probably last for only a few days. Lifting it would be decided on a daily basis, the source said.

Gaza was sealed off once before this month, after two Israelis were knifed to death March 2 in Tel Aviv.

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Two arrested Palestinians are driven away in a police jeep following a demonstration Monday on the eve of "Land Day" (AFP photo)

Choose peace or bitter struggle, Arafat to Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday the Middle East was at a "historical crossroads" between a just peace and a bitter struggle that would affect security in the region and the world.

"Today, we stand at a historical crossroad: We could either make use of the opportunity to achieve a just and balanced peace or we would get into a bitter struggle which will affect the security of our area and the world and would multiply the pain, miseries and violence," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Cairo.

He spoke after talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa in which they coordinated stands before the Egyptian team begins a tour on Tuesday to Bonn, London and the United States.

Mr. Arafat met President Hosni Mubarak Sunday and entrusted him to negotiate a solution in Washington to the crisis of Palestinian expellees and discuss ideas that would give new impetus to stalled Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Mubarak was scheduled to see U.S. President Bill Clinton on April 6.

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U.S. talks produced little in practical terms-Ashrawi

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks, Faisal Al Hussein, and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi arrived in Amman from Washington Monday after holding talks with American officials on the Middle East peace process, stalled since last December when Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

Dr. Ashrawi said upon arrival in Amman that the Washington talks, which lasted for almost seven hours, did not produce any "practical results although it showed positive indications, the seriousness of the American position and Washington's keenness

to achieve peace."

"These indications and this keenness need to be clearly illuminated and need to have a mechanism for implementation because the Palestinian people are not any more satisfied with promises and good intentions which proved ineffective all through the peace process," she said.

The spokeswoman affirmed that Palestinian-American contacts would continue with the objective of removing obstacles impeding the peace process. She called on the U.S. to be neutral and unbiased in order to be an effective partner in the process and to

(Continued on page 5)

Government briefs House in secret session

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government and Parliament Monday held a behind-the-door meeting reportedly to discuss the country's policy on the Middle East peace process, the Shabbab Al Nafir Al Islami case and the delay in completing Amman-Jerash road among other issues.

No details of the meeting were available to the Jordan Times Monday as the meeting was still in session by press time.

Sources at the House, however, told the Jordan Times that some deputies challenged the government's request to hold the meeting in secret but only 15 out of 65 deputies present voted in favour of a motion to hold the meeting in public.

Lawmakers who talked to the Jordan Times during a break of the meeting played down its significance saying they did not expect the government to reveal anything "important."

One deputy, however, called the decision to hold the meeting in secret a "conspiracy" aimed at keeping "the truth about the Shabbab Al Nafir Al Islami case in the dark."

Yaqoub Qarrash, who was convicted of subversion against the state along with Deputy Laith Shbeilat in November but pardoned under a general amnesty by His Majesty King Hussein about a week later, walked out of the session in protest of the decision to hold it behind closed doors.

Sheikh Qarrash, an independent Islamist, said the session should have been held in public to allow him the opportunity to take his case to the people.

"It was my chance to tell the people my story. It is a conspiracy in which (House Speaker Abdul Latif) Arabiyat participated," an angry Qarrash told the Jordan Times in the lobby of the Parliament House.

"This is the dictatorship of Arabiyat," said the deputy, who left the House chamber before the vote was taken.

Mr. Shbeilat attended the session but Sheikh Qarrash indicated that he and Mr. Shbeilat had an agreement that at least one of them would not leave the meeting even if it was not held in public.

Mr. Qarrash boycotted the House since his release from jail in November but started attend-

ing the sessions when the agenda of the House's meetings include a "special session." The special session was on the agenda of the House a number of times but had been postponed.

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash had asked for a special session to discuss the Al Nafir case. "We asked for a special session and not a secret session," Sheikh Qarrash said. "People have to know what really happened," he said.

He said some officials tried to convince him not to raise the issue or not to respond to the government's statement on it and he told them he would do that only if the case is reinvestigated.

His condition was not accepted, he said.

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Alleged New York blast claim may signal more attacks

NEW YORK (Agency) — Middle East experts said the World Trade Centre (WTC) blast might be the first in a wave of attacks as authorities continued investigating a letter claiming responsibility for the bombing.

Police Sunday linked the five arrested suspects in the blast to a letter published in the New York Times saying the attack was in protest at U.S. policy in the Middle East. The letter also warned that 150 "suicidal soldiers" were poised for more attacks, including against "nuclear targets."

The letter, from a previously unheard of group called the Liberation Army Fifth Battalion, angrily protested the policies of the United States, as well as Israeli and other "dictator countries" in the Middle East and warned of future action against U.S. civilian and military targets.

The New York Times received the letter four days after the Feb. 26 bombing which killed six and injured over 1,000, and immediately turned it over to law enforcement officials.

In what appeared a major breakthrough in determining the long-sought motive for the bombing, investigators said they had linked the letter to the suspects being held in the case: Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, Bilal Al Kaisi and suspected ringleader Mahmoud Abu Halima.

"There is no question that the letter was prepared by a member of this cell," a senior investigator told the newspaper in reference to the suspects being held in connection with the case.

Middle East expert Avigdor Haselkorn said authorities have to take such letters seriously. "Letters of this sort cannot be viewed as just some not writing. There is a serious capability by these people of carrying it through," said Mr. Haselkorn, a Palo Alto, California-based private analyst specialising in Middle East affairs.

An Arab-American community leader said Sunday he does not believe it could have been written by one of the suspects.

"It was not written by a Muslim fundamentalist or religiously oriented person," said M.T. Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee, adding that the letter does not make the appropriate references to God that are required of Islamic writing.

"It was written by a secularist who was politically oriented," he said. "If the letter is authentic, it should clear those five suspects of all charges."

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman Joe Valiquette said Sunday he would confirm only that the letter was received by the Times, and was turned over to police.

"We do not know if any definite link has been made to any of the five in custody," Mr. Valiquette said.

The letter warned that the group would stage more attacks in the United States unless the U.S. government severed relations with Israel and met other demands involving Middle East policy.

He refused to publicly name cabinet members until the list had been approved by Mr. Rabbani. Details were expected to be announced Tuesday.

Mr. Hekmatyar was speaking after a meeting with delegates of most of Afghanistan's Mujahideen parties at his headquarters south of Kabul.

Mr. Hekmatyar was to name his cabinet in consultation with the fundamentalist president.

Afghan parties agree on cabinet

CHARASYAB, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said Monday he had formed a cabinet and would ask President Burhanuddin Rabbani for his approval.

"The good news today is that the consultations for formation of the cabinet have somehow been completed," the 44-year-old hardline leader of the radical Hezb-e-Islami party said.



CELEBRATION: Somali women demonstrating agreement reached between their feuding leaders in Mogadishu cheer their fist to salute a peace

Lebanon seeks extradition of RJ hijacker from U.S.

BEIRUT (AP) — Legal proceedings have been started in Beirut to seek the extradition of a Shiite Muslim air pirate serving a 30-year prison term in the United States. Lebanon's court of appeal said Monday.

The prosecution department of the country's highest judicial authority said it would shortly request the extradition of Fawaz Younis, 34, who hijacked a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner with two American passengers on board June 11, 1985.

A spokesman for the court, who requested anonymity, said the move was prompted by a note from Mr. Younis' Beirut attorney, Khodor Harakeh, contending that the United States had no jurisdiction over his client's case.

"The prosecution at the court of appeal filed charges of aircraft hijacking and hostage taking against Fawaz Younis a few days ago. His extradition will be requested from the United States in a matter of days," the spokesman said.

His remarks came after the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar reported the proceedings against Mr. Younis. He declined to answer a question whether the Beirut move could be an attempt to bring Mr. Younis home for a lighter sentence.

The Lebanese government has been trying to shed the terrorist image that had plagued the country during the 1975-1990 civil war, which turned Beirut into a haven for air pirates, hostage takers, bank robbers and drug smugglers.

Mr. Younis belongs to the pro-Syrian Amal movement, whose leader Nabih Berri was elected speaker of Lebanon's parliament last year.

Mr. Younis and five other comrades seized a RJ airlines jetliner as it prepared to take off from Beirut to Amman, June 11, 1985. They forced the Boeing 727 to fly to Tunis, where authorities closed the airport and refused to let the plane land. It then flew to Larnaca, Cyprus, to refuel and then to Sicily before landing back at Beirut airport.

The 70 passengers, including two Americans, were allowed to disembark safely before the hijackers blew up the plane and disappeared in nearby Shiite slums.

Federal agents arrested Mr. Younis Sept. 13, 1987 after luring him to a pleasure yacht cruise in international Mediterranean waters off Cyprus, and took him to the United States.

A federal court in Washington convicted Mr. Younis in 1989 of aircraft hijacking and taking the 70 passengers hostage for 29 hours, and sentenced him to 30 years' imprisonment.

TEHRAN — The man with the black bag visiting homes in Tehran each week is not a doctor on house calls. His business is more about mental health.

He is the video rental agent, bearing contraband. Fear that telephone monitoring might lead to arrest means most families give their rental man a prearranged appointment.

The underground trade may change, however, with a law promulgated this month to provide government licences for anyone wishing to import and trade in videos.

It is part of an elaborate balancing act by Iranian authorities, who want to maintain Islamic purity, yet ease the rapidly building pressure for Western culture and more relaxed lifestyles.

Clergymen had feared the video ban was driving Iranians to the forbidden fruit of Western culture, especially satellite

Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq to sell oil

GENEVA (R) — Kuwait Monday called international pressure on Iraq to sell oil so some of the cash could be used to compensate civilians, firms and governments who suffered losses in Baghdad's invasion of the emirate in 1990.

Speaking to the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, a senior Kuwaiti official also said it was time to consider transferring part of Iraqi assets frozen abroad into a special U.N. coffers set up to pay Gulf war reparations.

Abdul Rahman Al Houry, chairman of Kuwait's public authority for assessment of compensation for damages resulting from Iraqi aggression, made the plea at the start of the five-member commission's private, week-long governing council under the chairmanship of Spain.

He also urged Baghdad to release any people still held two years after the Gulf war.

"It is Iraq's responsibility to compensate fully those who have suffered losses," he said.

So far, the commission has received 700,000 claims from individuals and corporations for suffered as a result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of the emirate. Kuwaitis have registered more than 200,000 claims, Mr. Houry said.

United Nations boosts security in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. and private relief agencies have stepped up security in Iraq after the murder of a foreign aid worker in the Kurdish-controlled north last week, a United Nations official said Monday.

"We are very concerned about the situation there," Hiroshi Matsumoto, acting coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian programme in Iraq, told Reuters.

"There is ... a need to set up very effective and also very well coordinated security measures," Mr. Matsumoto said.

Gunmen shot dead Belgian Vincent Tuleit of Handicapped International on March 22 on a relief mission 45 kilometres from the Kurdish rebel stronghold of Sulaimaniyah.

Handicapped International is one of about 25 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in northern Iraq. Mr. Matsumoto said.

The killing of Mr. Tuleit was the second this year. In January Stuart Cameron of Australian Care International was murdered in Kurdistan.

Mr. Matsumoto said new security to international aid staff limited their activities in cities, barred travel after sunset and compelled them to move about in at least two vehicles.

Mr. Matsumoto said he did not know who was responsible for Mr. Tuleit's murder but said U.N. and private aid agencies operating in the Kurdish north had a meeting with "local administration," demanding maximum security.

Iraq has denied in the past responsibility for shootings of aid personnel and bombings of relief convoys in the north, saying the area is outside its control.

Rebel Kurds have set up regional government in the area and are running their own affairs outside Baghdad's authority.

A U.N. Iraq aid pact expires Wednesday. It provides for stationing U.N. guards in the north and guarantees smooth access of aid to rebel Kurds and the right of travel to U.N. personnel in Iraq.

'Iraq sending oil products, other goods to Iran, Turkey'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq is exporting increasing amounts of petroleum products, fertilizers and cement to Iran and Turkey, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The report in the Nicosia-based weekly followed a report in the Washington Post that the Clinton administration secretly protested to Iraq last week about a large oil shipment it received from Iraq in apparent violation of U.N. trade sanctions.

The economic survey said "reports from Baghdad" indicated Iraq was trucking petroleum products, fertilizers and cement to Iran and Turkey in return for food, medicine and spare parts.

It said the towns of Khirawi in central Iraq and the southern port of Basra were used for trade transactions with Iran, while the town of Fayda north of the oil town of Mosul was the transit point for trade with Turkey.

The Security Council is to hold a public meeting this week to discuss whether trade sanctions against Iraq should continue. The economic survey reported that the United States was likely to insist on three points:

— Since Iraq has not fulfilled all requirements of U.N. resolutions demanding elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, it is

premature to even discuss lifting the sanctions.

— The United States will not relax the conditions under which Iraq could sell oil to pay for humanitarian supplies. So far, Baghdad has rejected the U.N. conditions as too restrictive.

— Washington will press for implementation of Security Council Resolution 688, which calls for assurances that "the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected."

The newsletter pointed out that Iraq has been active diplomatically in efforts to try to get the sanctions lifted but it noted that these efforts have made little impact on the Clinton administration.

The new administration "seems determined to retain the sanctions and weaken the regime domestically by showing up its international isolation and lack of material resources, while at the same time strengthening Washington's ties with the opposition represented by the Iraqi National Congress," it said.

The congress is a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups.

Amal ready to swap two dead Israelis for captives

MSAILEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — The head of Lebanon's Amal movement offered Sunday to swap the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for hundreds of Arab prisoners held by Israel's militia allies.

Nabih Berri said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) could examine the bodies as long as all women prisoners were freed from Khiam prison in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Mr. Berri, speaker of the Lebanese parliament, made the same offer two years ago but repeated it Sunday after signs the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement and Israel wanted to set up a prisoner swap.

"We will release the two bodies in exchange for the release of all the detainees from Khiam prison," Mr. Berri told reporters at his home in the village of Msaileh in the south.

The Red Cross would be allowed to examine the two corpses in exchange for the release of the women captives in Khiam.

An Israeli army officer said Israel was examining Mr. Berri's offer, but expressed doubt it would yield to anything.

"He has for a long time claimed that he has bodies, but there is doubt that they are Israelis," said Colonel Reuven Erlich, an aide to Uri Lubrani, coordinator of the Israeli government's activities in Lebanon.

Mr. Berri spoke during a luncheon he threw for local reporters at his mansion.

"I think the time has come for this exchange. We are willing to do it if Israel is willing to release all the prisoners it holds in the Khiam jail, starting with the women," Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Berri has made the offer on numerous occasions over the past two years, insisting his Amal group has the bodies of the two Israeli servicemen killed during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

But Israeli officials have said Amal does not hold any of the six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

For Iran's imams, Western culture again the bogeyman

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

TEHRAN — The man with the black bag visiting homes in Tehran each week is not a doctor on house calls. His business is more about mental health.

He is the video rental agent, bearing contraband. Fear that telephone monitoring might lead to arrest means most families give their rental man a prearranged appointment.

The underground trade may change, however, with a law promulgated this month to provide government licences for anyone wishing to import and trade in videos.

It is part of an elaborate balancing act by Iranian authorities, who want to maintain Islamic purity, yet ease the rapidly building pressure for Western culture and more relaxed lifestyles.

Clergymen had feared the video ban was driving Iranians to the forbidden fruit of Western culture, especially satellite

television. They have been attacking that culture with renewed vigor, teasing yet another plot to undermine the 14-year-old Islamic revolution.

It is unlikely the religious zealots will let distributors offer the Western films, loaded with sex and violence, now readily available for \$1 a week.

Diplomats and many Iranians believe whatever relaxation there may be is aimed squarely at preserving the Islamic state by diverting attention from soaring unemployment and inflation. With no ready enemies massing at any border, satellite television is the next-best villain.

Suspicion of Western culture already runs deep in many Iranians.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution stemmed as much from a rejection of the Western values adopted by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as from politics.

The ruling imams fear pleasure-oriented Western culture will seduce the people and undermine Iranian society.

"The enemies of Islam have directed their venomous propaganda at weakening the will-power of our devout youth," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme spiritual leader, said in a speech. "If you lose your human and Islamic identity, you will be westernized, and westernization is like being hit with a flood."

Severe economic problems, combined with inflexible social laws imposed by Islamic traditions, make almost anything Western a magnet for frustrated young Iranians.

Half of the 60 million people are under age 15. Because of fierce competition for education and jobs, millions face lives of little schooling and permanent unemployment.

There are few chances for the sexes to mix because public places, even cafes, are segregated by law.

Before the new law, videos were illegal. Satellite television dishes still are. The punishment for being caught with

either has been flogging.

Still, Iranians have been able to get almost any video they wanted, smuggled in from Iranian exile communities in the United States or through Dubai across the Gulf.

Among the current hits are Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Terminator 2" and other action movies. Video machines were illegal, too, but even the speaker of parliament announced that state television, run by his brother, is boring.

"Islam has instructed Muslims to enjoy beauty and natural blessings," Mr. Rafsanjani told reporters. "Having dry programmes and dull colour cannot attract people to cultural and arts programmes. We need more variety in our television programmes, and two stations are not enough."

Just what he has in mind is not clear. For the moment, state television consists mostly of discussions of Koranic interpretations and interminable footage of mountains and flowers accompanied by traditional music.

Many people believe the government is loosening its grip on Iranian writing and movies hope of finding an acceptable counterweight to narcotics and Western satellite programmes.

"They have this belief, if people look at foreign programmes they will be corrupted, frustrated, but with self-censoring Iranian artists it will be a healthier atmosphere," said poet Shams Langaroodi.

Artists keep any material deemed erotic, political or anti-religious to themselves.

For the moment, the best insurance against an overwhelming invasion is the cost of an illegal satellite dish in a country where the per capita income is \$50 a year.

A dish that can pick up 30 stations from Turkey, including Cable News Network, costs about \$3,000. The owner also needs a garden or roof where the dish can stay covered and undetected during the day.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Histoires Naturelles
18:30	Territoires
19:00	News in French
19:15	Kargo
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Powers that Be
21:00	The Dirtywater Dynasty
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Maid to Order"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:25	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Duha
11:49	Dhuhr
13:12	Asr
17:57	Maghreb
19:16	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 600851, Tel. 620543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer — Tel. 638526	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
AMMAN	
Min./Max. temp.	10 / 23
Aqaba	16 / 27
Deserts	9 / 21
Jordan Valley	13 / 26
YERUSALEM	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 25, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi	693925
Dr. Khalid Mu'ddi	743500
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa	732056
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayeh	620115
First pharmacy	661912
Forwards pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Ya'qoub pharmacy	644045
Shmoisani pharmacy	637660
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	686290
Public Security Department	630321
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
HOSPITALS	
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	08-33200
RJ Flight Information	08-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-33200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:00	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30	Dhahran (RJ)
08:15	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:40	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30	London (RJ)
16:45	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:45	Rome (AZ)
17:20	Paris, Beirut (ME)
18:00	Beirut (ME)
23:20	Bucharest (RO)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:30	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:25	Cepcva, Madrid (RJ)
12:35	London (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
21:00	Aden (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 550
Banana	700 / 700
Banana (Mekummar)	640 / 640
Beans	1100 / 800
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	180 / 120
Cauliflower	200 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 180
Eggplant	300 / 200
Garlic	800 / 600
Grapes	200 / 150
Lebanese	370 / 300
Marrow (large)	300 / 250
Marrow (small)	440 / 350
Mint	100
Onion (dry)	210 / 180
Onion (green)	220 / 180
Oranges	480 / 350
Pepper (hot)	480 / 350
Pepper (sweet)	600 / 400
Tomato	220 / 140
Spinach	120 / 80

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Grapes	200 / 150
Lebanese	370 / 300
Marrow (large)	300 / 250

PSD to take delivery of 2 German police boats

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two medium-class, re-build police boats, purchased by the Public Security Council (PSC) from Germany, will be delivered in a ceremony in Aqaba Wednesday.

Matthias Meyer, counsellor at the German embassy in Amman, told the Jordan Times Monday that the two boats, which were previously in the service of the former East German regime, have been refurbished and rebuilt to help the PSD guard the coasts of Aqaba against smuggling, drug trafficking and other maritime violations.

Mr. Meyer said a visiting, four-member German delegation will attend the delivery ceremony in the port city.

The delegation, which comprises three officials from the German Interior Ministry and one from the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, is led by Wolfgang Schreiber, Director of Security Affairs at the Interior Ministry.

According to Mr. Meyer, the delegation is here to hold talks

with PSD officials on scopes of cooperation in security affairs.

The German team, which arrived here Sunday, met with PSD Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid and discussed means of further developing bilateral cooperation in security matters between Germany and Jordan, PSD sources said.

Head of the PSD Public Relations Department, Brigadier Mohammad Tarazi, said the two sides signed a cooperation protocol Monday, defining the types of technical equipment that will be sent to Jordan from Germany under a technical cooperation programme.

Maj.-Gen. Fuheid praised the strong relations between the two countries, expressing hope for continued cooperation, said Brig. Tarazi.

Mr. Meyer told the Jordan Times that the protocol extends to the end of 1994.

He said Germany, which provided Jordan with three helicopters in 1988 and specially-equipped vehicles to track smugglers in 1991, was willing to continue its close cooperation with



Public Security Department Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid and German Ministry of Interior Director of Security Affairs Wolfgang Schreiber exchange a protocol agreement for cooperation Monday.

Schreiber exchange a protocol agreement for cooperation Monday.

the Jordanian authorities in security-related affairs.

The helicopters and the vehicles supplied from Germany have been used extensively by the PSD in detecting border smuggling op-

erations.

Valued at D.M. 13 million in 1988, the helicopters represented the largest level of cooperation between Germany and a non-European country, said Mr.

Meyer.

He said the German delegation, will continue talks with Jordanian officials until Thursday, and return to Germany Friday.

Consumer advocates urge new protective legislation

Elit M. Goldberg
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian consumers are not adequately protected under current laws and regulations, according to the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP). These lapses have directly affected the quality and affordability of services and products available in Jordan.

At a conference hosted on Monday by the NSCP at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, a series of panels presented papers on these issues.

According to NSCP Secretary Treasurer Abdel Fatah Al Kilani, the group's objectives are to stimulate open dialogue on consumer protection, encourage policy-makers to take appropriate legislative action, and to educate the Jordanian public on the problems they face.

According to some attendees, currently, regulations affecting the welfare of the Jordanian consumer are few and far between and suffer from a lack of a coherent structure for their development, implementation, and enforcement.

By reviewing the current situa-

tion and raising an awareness of its debilitating consequences, participants said they hoped that the government will work to develop alternatives to redress it.

Panelists emphasized the need for strict standards on the quality of goods sold. Food safety was cited as a serious example of how inappropriate regulations, or their absence, can directly affect the welfare of the consumer.

Some audience members told the Jordan Times that they were calling for the regulation of the professional services sector.

They called upon the government to require that service companies apply for certification that they have met a minimum standard of training in their area of expertise.

Holding examinations was suggested as a means of assuring their ability.

Members emphasised that any companies found operating without proper certification should be closed down.

Methods of enforcement and inspection should therefore be developed, they maintained.

Members of the NSCP also advocated working with the health profession to insure that

all Jordanians have access to affordable health care and medicine.

In addition to setting price ranges according to income levels, the NSCP is encouraging the prescription of generic drugs which, overall, cost less than their brand-name equivalents.

Although supportive of the free market in Jordan, some participants cautioned against any quick action regarding the removal of government subsidies of various products because of pressure from the World Bank.

"While proper competition can serve to keep prices reasonable, it is unclear how long and severe subsequent price fluctuations will last. We should move forward, but not by placing the consumer at uncertain risk."

The NSCP, founded three years ago, has strived to include in its discussions members of the business community.

On the basis that all Jordanians are consumers, the society believes that through broad participation they can establish a cooperative environment for addressing issues of common concern to all Jordanians.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King meets with Prime Minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called at the Prime Ministry and held a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Premier Thouran Al Hindawi and the ministers of state. Later, the King held a closed-door meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss several domestic issues and external affairs, and passed his directives to the Premier.

Prince Abdullah meets with visiting German official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein met Monday at the Public Security Department (PSD) with Director of Security Affairs at the German Ministry of Interior Wolfgang Schreiber and an accompanying delegation. Prince Abdullah was briefed at the meeting, attended by PSD Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid, on the close relations between the Jordanian and German security forces. The meeting was also attended by assistants of the PSD director and senior officers.

Minister opens cultural periodicals meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra Monday opened a two-day meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to discuss cultural periodicals in Jordan. The Ministry of Culture's periodicals, Dr. Samra said, cannot fulfil their mission without the collective efforts and support of the Jordanian writers, artists and other intellectuals. Sualeman Sweiss submitted a working paper on the contrast between cultural periodicals in Jordan and other Arab countries. Another paper, by Shukri Hajji, reviewed the development of the Alfar Literary Gazette which is published by the Ministry of Culture. Zuheir Abu Shayeb's paper focused on the artistic presentation of the gazette, and two other researchers: Elias Farkouh and Abdullah Radwan submitted papers dealing with two other periodicals published in Jordan.

Antiquities chief returns from study tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Antiquities Department Director General Safwan Tel returned to Amman Monday following a 10-day tour of the United States where he visited universities that conduct studies on Jordan's archaeology. Dr. Tel said he took part in some of the research projects there, delivered several of lectures outlining Jordan's history and discussed prospects for American

university archaeologists to conduct excavations and restoration work on Jordanian archaeological sites, particularly the Nabatean City of Petra.

PSD reports 451 road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Five persons died and 183 others were injured in 451 road accidents in Jordan between March 13-20. The Public Security Department (PSD), which released the figures Monday, said collisions among vehicles accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total number of accidents and most of the injured were below 10 years of age.

Environment seminar to begin in Salt

SALT (Petra) — The Salt Development Corporation is organising a seminar on April 6 to discuss environment problems and proposed solutions. Discussion will cover the adverse effects of industries on the Jordanian environment. Specialists from the concerned public and private sector organisations will address the meeting.

Al Bashir Hospital treats more than 8,000 over 'Eid

AMMAN (Petra) — The emergency department of the Al Bashir Government Hospital treated more than 8,000 citizens during the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays. Only 162 were admitted to the hospital, according to sources. The hospital sources said the surgery unit provided medical treatment to 885 patients, and the orthopaedics department treated 639 patients. The children's department treated 1,183 patients and the radiology department serviced 1,690 patients, the sources said. They added that a total of 1,635 patients called at the hospital's laboratory and 207 patients called at the ophthalmology department.

British university students meet with minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of students from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom met here Monday with Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh and learnt from him about programmes to deal with the problem of poverty and assistance to the handicapped in the country. The delegation is currently on a tour of Jordan to study social development in the rural and agricultural regions of Jordan. The minister briefed the visitors on the difficulties that faced Jordan during the Gulf crisis when nearly a million evacuees passed through Jordan.

Peace or bitter struggle — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

discuss with the United States and Russia the obstacles to the peace process.

Mr. Arafat said he was pinning great hopes on Mr. Mubarak's talks in Washington.

The peace process was suspended in December after Israel expelled to Lebanon 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Islamic groups. The Palestinians demand at least a promise that Israel will renounce expulsions before they will resume talks.

Addressing Israel, the PLO leader said: "We tell the Israeli leadership and the public opinion inside Israel that the moment has come to let reason and conscience reign, so that relations of equality based on the principle of justice, human rights and international legitimacy would prevail."

"It is necessary for me today at this dangerous turning point threatening the risk of collapse, to reiterate that the PLO is ready to take the real challenge of peace," Mr. Arafat said in a conciliatory tone.

"The PLO invites everybody, with no exception — especially, the Israeli leadership to meet our position with a similar one, to protect the future of our people to provide a just solution, that can stand the test of time, and under which our future generation can live," Mr. Arafat added. He told Israel that its policy of expulsions, suppressive measures against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, its human rights violation and continuation of occupation, would never lead

to peace.

Mr. Arafat assured Palestinians under occupation, where Muslim fundamentalist groups were gaining influence, that the PLO's main objective was to achieve their rights and reach a just, comprehensive, honourable and permanent peace.

He said the peace process, sponsored by the United States, was suspended "because the proposals received by the Palestinian team lacked the bare minimum and because Israel's policy of expulsion and oppression has reached an alarming level threatening the interest of people and their basic rights."

Palestinian officials and diplomats said the United States offered the Palestinians a package of concessions if they agreed to go to Washington on April 20. These included an Israeli under-

taking not to carry out any further expulsions, to ease restrictions on the nearly two million people in the West Bank and Gaza and end human rights violations.

Mr. Arafat said no agreement has been reached yet on the return of the expellees.

Mr. Arafat said Egypt and Palestinian negotiators are in constant contact with the U.S. administration to restart the Arab-Israeli dialogue.

But, he said, "so far, we really have no agreement to report." Mr. Arafat said no progress has been made on the Palestinian question in the 17 months since the negotiations started in Madrid, Spain. He said the only result is that Israel is tightening its grip on Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"The Gaza Strip is closed off, and helicopters are destroying houses in the camps. The oppression and terrorism against us are continuing," he said.

U.N. retains sanctions against Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

there appeared to have been a single shipment which had taken place recently.

Earlier Monday, the White House said that Saddam Hussein would not be able to stay in power if he complied with all U.N. resolutions in order to end economic sanctions against Iraq. "It is inconceivable that Saddam Hussein could remain in power if he complied with all U.N. resolutions," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said.

"The U.N. resolutions would require him to give up his

weapons of mass destruction, to cease repressing ethnic minorities in Iraq, and we don't believe that's possible."

Ms. Myers was responding to questions about a report in the Washington Post Saturday that the Clinton administration would shift U.S. policy towards Iraq by no longer demanding President Saddam's removal as a precondition for removing sanctions against Iraq.

Ms. Myers said questions of a possible shift in policy were basically moot since there is no indication that President Saddam intends to comply with the resolutions. "He's shown no intention of doing so," she said.

Press association meeting debates public freedoms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Only 16 out of a total of 250 registered Jordanian journalists attended Monday's general assembly meeting at the headquarters of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the assembly endorsed the JPA's administrative and financial reports, as well as statements about the health insurance programme and the journalists' pension scheme.

The meeting, which was presided over by JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah, reviewed the

association's achievements last year and efforts with the government and the local newspaper owners to establish a permanent headquarters and a press club for Jordanian journalists.

The question of demanding that the newspapers pay JPA one per cent of their profits from the advertisements was included on the agenda.

Petra said topics related to public freedoms, the new press and publications law and the role of the JPA in unions' activities were also debated.



A painting by Jordanian artist Hussein Dasseh on display at the Baladna Gallery in Amman.

A painter explores the human condition

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Translating his personal experiences and philosophy into abstract art, Jordanian painter Hussein Dasseh presents a visual analysis of Arab history and the Palestinian condition.

The current exhibition, "Contemplation of Earth and Man," at Baladna Gallery, is an exploration of the human condition and a depiction of dreams.

Mr. Dasseh's work is abundant with symbols revealing his primary concern — the Arab World. Images of mosque domes, Arabic characters, and desert colours are strewn throughout his many canvases.

In several different series, Arabic numbers serve as a reminder of important dates in Arab history.

Abstractions of letters, documents and newspaper fragments are frequently incorporated into the paintings, suggesting the artist's preoccupation with the documentation of history.

A pair of paintings focusing on the importance of historical records depicts an archive with fragments of written material and film strips. The emphasis on documentation is perhaps a message to remember.

In an impressive series, Mr. Dasseh illustrates his view of Palestinian life in the refugee camps.

Against a sand-coloured background, wide-eyed abstract figures, images of tents and build-

ings, dashes of greenery dominate the periphery of each of the paintings.

Meanwhile at the centre of the camp is a box encapsulating the hopes and dreams of a people longing to return to their land.

In the first work the box, prominently positioned, is scaled relatively proportional to the camp. As the series progresses, the "box of dreams" grows larger, eventually dominating the painting.

According to the artist, "as the problem of displacement persists, the dream of returning in-cresces."

Colours vary dramatically from series to series. Many of the works feature primary colours against dark bleak tones.

Yet in several series Mr. Dasseh changes the mood, favouring softer and less daring colours.

Blending acrylic paint, ink and collage, Mr. Dasseh's abstractions are rich in materials.

The final product is complicated and will provide a challenge to the viewer.

While the artist himself contemplates the human experience, and more specifically the Arab experience, he attempts to revolutionise art and thought.

Although Mr. Dasseh paints to express his philosophies and portray his experiences, he invites viewers to interpret his work and draw individual conclusions.

Short agriculture management course begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mahmoud Duwayri, director of the National Agricultural Centre for Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT), opened a training course on the "Experimental Design and Analysis of Agricultural Projects," at NCARTT headquarters in Baqaa, Monday.

In attendance were 15 researchers from NCARTT's regional service centres and experiment stations.

In his address, Dr. Duwayri emphasised the importance of sound project planning, as well as the use of research information during each phase of experimentation.

He encouraged the participants to make full use of available library resources. In order to produce work that is meaningful not only to Jordan but also to learn how research is reported at the national and international levels.

"Experimental Design and Analysis of Agricultural Projects," is one of a series of training courses offered during 1993 by the NCARTT. It will continue through April 11.

Organised by Adnan Arafat, UNCARTT training and extension specialist, and Ahmad Abu Ali, NCARTT extension coordinator, the course is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Cairo health meeting to review Arab region's major problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Monday said Arab health ministers will review the general health situation in the Arab regions under Israeli occupation as well as the cooperation between the Arab countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) at a meeting in Cairo Wednesday.

Dr. Bataineh, who will head Jordan's delegation to the meeting, said the agenda also includes a review of cooperation with WHO in combating drug addiction in the Arab World, programmes on child welfare, the health consequences of the embargo on Libyan children and ways of combating AIDS in Africa.

The minister, who leaves with the delegation for Cairo Tuesday, said also that Israel's attempt to enter the league of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be discussed by the Arab health ministers.

He said the health ministers will also adopt strategy to support a bid by Palestine to be included as a member of WHO.

Health Organisation, the meeting intends to tackle theoretical as well as practical measures to prove the validity and expiry date of drugs, coordination at the international level in the process of trading in drugs and studies on vaccines.

The statement said the ministry created the Drug Quality Control Laboratory in 1980 in cooperation with WHO.

Dr. Bataineh paid tribute to WHO which, he said, helped the ministry to establish the laboratory by providing the necessary equipment and training the staff.

All imported and locally-made medicines undergo tests at the laboratory, the minister added.

Speaking on behalf of WHO, Dr. Abdul Aziz Saleh outlined cooperation programmes between WHO and countries of the region, and said the organisation seeks to underline two points: sound composition of the drugs



Countries from North Africa and the Near East are taking part in the meetings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery copperware, from the Widad Kassar collection — at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghanem at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- ★ Play entitled "The Death of Thebes" at the Royal Cultural Centre's main theatre at 8 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Arabic recital by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, with two of his poems sung by Tania Nasser, at the Philadelphia Hotel at 8:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY

Jordan University of Science & Technology Tender No. (14/93)

Due to the request of many participants in tender No. (14/93) concerning the consulting and supervision of the construction of the King Abdullah Hospital Project, Jordan University of Science and Technology announces the extension of the closing date for submission of the Tenders documents till 12:00 noon, Monday 10th of May 1993 in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Each applicant is requested to update his technical pre-qualification documents and present them in a separate envelope marked "Technical Offer."
2. The financial proposal should also be submitted in a separate envelope marked "Financial Offer."
3. The submission of both the "Financial Offer" and the "Technical Offer" shall be on the above mentioned date.
4. The last date for purchasing the tenders documents is 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 7th of April 1993 at a non-refundable fee of JD 100 (one hundred Jordanian dinars).
5. Each tender shall be accompanied by a tender bond in favour of the Jordan University of Science and Technology drawn from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount not less than two per cent (2%) of the total tender sum. Such bond shall remain valid for a period of not less than three months from the closing date of the tender submission.
6. Tender proposals not abiding by the above mentioned conditions and the conditions mentioned in the tender documents will not be considered.

Jordan University of Science and Technology accepts tender proposals of Joint-Venture among applicants who participated in the pre-qualification.

Chairman, Central Tendering Committee
Secretary General
Dr. Hamad Dwailey

Jordan Times

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To avoid double standard

WHATEVER policy the U.S. may wish to pursue as regards Iraq, the Americans must remember that no U.N. resolution has called for the replacement of the Iraqi leadership. That that leadership is not a benevolent one to its own people is certainly a matter for the Iraqis themselves to decide. No one should dictate to the Iraqis how they should go about their internal affairs. When it comes to international law and U.N. resolutions, the state of Iraq, like every other U.N. member, should abide by international consensus. The U.N., under the control of Western powers, has lost a great deal of its credibility over the years by applying double standards and being selective in its enforcement of its resolutions. The Israeli refusal to abide by Security Council Resolution 799, regarding the return of Palestinian deportees, and the U.S. covering for the Israelis are clear indications of double standard policies in dealing with sensitive conflicts. If Israel could be spared U.N. sanctions for agreeing to a phased implementation of Resolution 799, Iraq, which has adhered to most of the stipulations of more than half a dozen Security Council resolutions, should be accorded similar treatment.

So far almost all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed. Its fighting capability has been reduced to a minimum. The Iraqi people are starving; and the Iraqi children's mortality rate has tripled. Not only that. The weakening of Iraq has given Iran increased strength and a greater say in regional matters. Arab states and the West in general are becoming alarmed at Iran's arming and its intervention in the Arab World's internal affairs.

The Iraqi regime and the Iraqi people, who continue to suffer under the U.N.-imposed sanctions should not be expected to succumb to what they see as injustice on behalf of the U.N. and Western powers. They have the right to refuse to sell their oil through the U.N. It is therefore high time for the Security Council to take into account the balance of power in the region, grievances by the Iraqi people and Arabs and Muslims at large and the plight of the Iraqi people who so far endured hardship and misery through no fault of their own.

The conflict between Iraq and the West, particularly the U.S., is less an issue of Iraq's compliance with the U.N. sanctions and more the U.S. insistence on removing the Iraqi leadership — something that in itself is illegal according to the U.N. Charter. The U.S. cannot claim that it is the guardian of international legitimacy while it pursues internationally illegal policies and actions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the upsurge of resistance activities in the occupied Arab territories by saying that the resistance and the intifada remain the only tools in the hands of the Palestinian people to confront the Zionists' arrogance. The Palestinians have decided to opt for the use of weapons of all kinds in order to regain their rights now that the Israelis and the Americans have scoffed at all bids by the Arabs and the Palestinians to reach a peaceful settlement, said the daily. By creating this brave popular resistance, the Palestinians defy all types of advanced weapons and the armaments of sophisticated arms in the hands of the United States, Israel and their allies, said the paper. The victory achieved by the Vietnamese people over the United States presents us with the best example of how a popular confrontation can result in victory over the aggressors, said the daily. The Palestinians seem to have now absorbed all lessons of past conflicts around the world, and have opted to use their guns and their knives in order to rid their occupied land of the Zionist invaders, continued the paper. Through this kind of struggle, the paper said, the Palestinians are bound to dissipate all the dreams of the Jewish state and bring final defeat to its troops. The Palestinians, along with all the oppressed Arabs and Muslims of the world, have decided to confront the neo-imperialists, and their decision is sound and final, said the paper. This confrontation, it concluded, is bound to make obsolete all kinds of sophisticated weapons like planes and rockets in the hands of their enemies.

At the time when the Arab foreign ministers continued their Damascus meeting to discuss means to reach peace through negotiations, and while the Palestinians continued their contacts with the U.S. administration to remove obstacles in the path of the peace process, the Israelis issued statements revealing their adamant position, said Al Dustour daily. After receiving invitations to resume the peace process in Washington, the Arabs have been meeting to find means to respond favourably to this call; but the Israelis have been poisoning the atmosphere through their statements, indicating further intransigent positions, the paper said. It said it is Israel that has been expected to offer concessions to pave the ground for the Arab parties to return to the negotiating table, but one can see that the Rabin government is determined to undermine all bids towards attaining peace. Israel is, in fact, creating the obstacles before the Palestinians and the other Arab parties by refusing to return the expelled Palestinian and by stepping up repression against the Arab population in the occupied lands, said the paper. "As we continue to look with hope to the outcome of the Palestinian-U.S. contacts in Washington and the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers' endeavours to find a way out of the present deadlock, we also hope that the concerned parties will decide on measures that can by no means allow the Israelis to have their own way, or to succeed in making the world community blame the Arabs for the collapse of the peace process," said the paper.

The View from Fourth Circle

Red flags, green flags, wolves and sheep

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE been astounded to follow the recent debate, in the region and in many other parts of the world, about the prospects for democratisation in the Arab/Islamic World. I say astounded because in most cases, the debate has been presented as a choice between democracy of Islam, with little in between.

The predominant assumption is that the powerful Islamist political movements that dominate the region today will try to use democracy to gain power, and this will mark the end of the world, or something like that in contemporary political terms.

I find it very sad, and a telling reflection on the thin character of democratic forces in the Arab/Islamic World, that we should have allowed the debate on the single most important issue that will determine our future — the nature of our political systems and the relationships between the governed and the governing — to have deteriorated into a series of stereotypes, caricatures and frightening spectres.

The facts of the real world may be rather different from the mutterings of ignorant Western politicians and self-serving, commercialised intellectuals who have jumped in one fell swoop from fighting Communists to fighting Islam; the facts are also rather different from the fears of Arab politicians and their patrons who have enjoyed the fruits of power and unchallenged incumbency for most of this century, but who now find themselves haunted by ghosts and gremlins of their own making.

Specifically, I think there are two assumptions by those who doubt the compatibility of Islam and democracy and who also fear the political ascendancy of Islamist forces, and both wrong assumptions are explained by the same reason.

The reason is that the ongoing quest for a new social and political order in the Arab/Islamic World will necessarily change or even reverse many of the policies that have brought this region to its current brittle and violent state. In other words, democracy and/or the politics of Islam will mean that most of the old guard will be thrown out of office, unceremoniously dumped by their own people and relegated to history as a brief and grievous footnote in an otherwise rational and rich tale of national development.

We do not know what the region's political configuration will look like in a decade or two, but we can be certain that it will not maintain its current shape and direction, because the current politics of the region have brought only pain and suffering to many people, and national humiliation to most people.

It should be obvious by now that those in the West or in the region who fear democracy in our lands really fear losing the privileges they have enjoyed through the dominance of undemocratic, usually autocratic systems of centralised control of military and fiscal power. Furthermore, those who claim that democracy and Islamic culture are incompatible really mean that an Arab/Islamist brand of democracy will be different from Western-style democracy, and may express powerful anti-Western sentiments that have brewed in the Arab/Islamic World for well over a century.

Therefore, many in the West declare that Arab/Islamist democracy should be shunned as something not only dangerous but also unnatural! Many in the West offer us today a warmed over version of the same discredited 19th century North Atlantic colonial racism that saw Blacks, Indians and other folk with tinted skins as incapable of assuming control over their own lives — and we should throw this new political racism back at those who offer it just as fiercely as we rejected colonialism itself.

The corollary concern, in the West and around here, that Islamist politicians will use democracy to gain power, and to stay in power forever, strikes me as an argument based more on fear, guilt and laziness than on anything more politically substantive. Islamist politics has gained ground because the Arab political forces of militarism and statehood-as-private-fiefdom that hijacked this region in the 1950s and 1960s have proved themselves unable to respond to people's real needs. The spectre of Islamist

rule scares the incumbents because it confirms their failures and vulnerabilities. The political elite is not afraid of Islam as such; it is really afraid of political unemployment.

To suggest, however, that Islamists will try to gain power and then end political pluralism forever strikes me as a naive argument that unnecessarily weakens the political and human vitality of our region. The grassroots pressure that now bolsters the Islamists will turn against them if they cannot deliver the goods, and the Arab World's extraordinary experience of expressing grassroots political identity over the last several thousand years will not suddenly hibernate or die if and when Islamists take power. Keep your eyes on Iran for further progress on this front.

Islamic fundamentalism has proved to be an effective force for public protest, political challenge, and personal solace, but in modern history it has proved unable to translate its vision into a coherent political programme that responds to people's practical needs. It has never succeeded in providing a blueprint for durable statehood. (Neither have Jewish Israel and once predominantly Christian Lebanon, the other attempts at religious-based statehood in the Middle East, both of which are troubled models of quasi-viable sovereignty deeply dependent on foreign sources of funding, protection, or armament, and both of which have lived in perpetual insecurity since their birth in the middle of this century).

Islam is neither the problem nor the answer. It is merely the most efficient vehicle for expression of mass anger, and of near despair in many quarters. The problem is social inequity, political indignity and national humiliation felt by Arabs/Muslims on a large scale.

The several countries that rely heavily on Islam as a guiding political principle — Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan — all have their good points and fine traditions, but all are characterised by severe political tension, economic distortion, and woeful deficiencies in democracy and respect for human rights. In other words, Islamist politics is not really the problem people perceive it to be; the real problem is theological politics in general.

Islamists now find themselves politically challenged head-on and in public by forces that had not dared to confront them in previous years, whether from religious courtesy or political fear. In 1989-1992, as the Islamists stepped down from the elevated platform of heavenly protest and trudged into the mud of parliamentary debate and political battle, they shed some of their aura of invincibility and infallibility. They were not, as some had first seen them, God's messengers on earth, for God had already sent us his prophets.

The Islamists came to be seen for what they were: dynamic political leaders with a strong moral twist. If God approved of their deeds, he did not necessarily determine their fate in the political arena. That would reflect the results of temporal electoral battle. The Islamists, used to being fought by governments in Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq and other states, are also fought today by competing political groups in Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Egypt and other lands. They are challenged in Parliament and the press, confronted in local elections, and generally treated as a credible political alternative rather than a sacred heavenly force.

When they ventured forth from the house of God to the house of Parliament, Islamic political leaders shed the protective shield of their spiritual sanctity. They have shown since that they can

wheel and deal with the best of them, arrange complex political deals, make or break coalitions, and keep their finger firmly on the political pulse of the land — advancing or retreating as the required by the lure of power, the exigencies of incumbency, the fear of defeat, and the spoils of victory.

Like all political leaders, Islamists are ultimately accountable to their constituency for their public positions, and their constituents are asking for blessed righteousness and sacred rage along with jobs, reasonably priced food, clean water, affordable housing and university education. Many Arabs, a majority in some countries, are willing to give the Islamic parties a chance to prove their political prowess and leadership qualities. These parties experience to date, where they have won local or national power through the ballot box (Jordan, Algeria), or by allying themselves to the ruling military junta (Sudan), or simply by virtue of their status as one of several ethnic-religious groups in a power-sharing system (Lebanon), is too short to judge their capacities as administrators and political managers.

Islamist politicians are discovering that the test of incumbency is far different from the test of opposition, that it is far easier to proclaim that "Islam is the answer" than it is to create millions of new jobs or redress national water balances dangerously in deficit. As they continue to play a role in decision-making, Islamist leaders will be subjected to the same standards of accountability as the leaderships they ousted. They will have to deal with the same problems that they used to challenge and, ultimately, used to discredit many Arab leaderships. How well they or others solve those problems will determine their own future, political status, as well as the political fate of the Arab World.

In the meantime, scared Western politicians and scared Arab power-brokers should snap out of their traumatised intellectual fog and deal with the challenge of the politics of Islam in a more rational and productive manner than they have dealt with the many other challenges of modern Arab statehood.

The policies of the past — autocracy, hereto-worship, militarism, and blatant materialism — are known quantities, and deep, shameful failures. They cannot be brought out for a final, pitiful performance by the political wolves of modern Arab power politics against the Islamists, because such policies will only strengthen the conviction of the electorate that, indeed, the existing power structure is the problem, and consequently, Islam really may be the answer.

Instead of denying democracy and manipulating the political and security systems to keep out the Islamists at any price, the ruling Arab regimes and their Western cheerleaders and armours should try to respond in the same political currency used by the Islamists. Incumbent powers should rise to the challenge that has erupted from deep within their own Arab community — a challenge to work for a better society, or else get out of the way and let someone else try their hand.

Islam is neither the problem nor the answer. It is merely the most efficient vehicle for expression of mass anger, and of near despair in many quarters. The problem is social inequity, political indignity, and national humiliation felt by Arabs/Muslims on a large scale.

The solution is better governance, the politics of participation and accountability, and a system that allows people to feel that they are being treated like human beings, rather than like sheep. The first party to deliver these rights to Arabs/Muslims will emerge politically triumphant. The others will scream and wave red flags, or green flags, but they will wave in vain if they do not offer a political programme that responds to people's rights and aspirations.

This is democracy's ultimate message in the Arab/Islamic World, which is why the incumbent Arab and Western powers fear it so much, and why the people crave it so much.

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Victorious but wary

French right steps into a minefield as it marches to power

By Francois Rattier
Reuters

PARIS — The French right is marching to power, victorious but wary.

Conservatives are set to vastly outnumber their defeated Socialist foes in the National Assembly elected Sunday. But like any conquering army, the conservatives fear stepping into a minefield laid by the retreating enemy.

Leaders of the Centre Right, Union for France (UPF) coalition have accused the government of leaving booby traps behind and warned President Francois Mitterrand, the last pocket of Socialist resistance, against any rear-guard action.

What they most fear is the lone sniper at the Elysee Palace.

Opposition generals claim the Socialists have left numerous time bombs: soaring budget, social security and pension fund deficits, farm and fisheries crises, concealed unemployment and a potential clash with the United States over the GATT world trade negotiations.

The first shots in a "cohabitation" guerrilla war were fired even before Sunday's election. Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, who was Mr. Mitterrand's prime minister in 1986 when the wily tactician managed to turn the tables and bring the Socialists back to power within two years, urged the president to lay down his arms and quit.

He backed down when Mr. Mitterrand threatened to snub Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) when picking the next premier.

Mr. Mitterrand, hoping to leave the Elysee to a leftist in the 1995 presidential election, has refused to cut his term short.

He told an emotional meeting of the outgoing cabinet he would stay as a bulwark against any attempt to cut welfare or undermine European unity.

Mr. Chirac has warned that the 76-year-old president would not have his way this time.

"Cohabitation is not sharing power with waning socialism. It is the new majority exercising its powers fully," he said.

The conservatives fear they will find some nasty surprises when they get through the ministries' gates.

"France today is a minefield and the government is pursuing a scorched earth policy," Mr. Chirac said in the election campaign.

The UPF accused Prime Minister Pierre Bergey of emptying state coffers to shore up faltering companies, create artificial schemes to keep unemployment below the politically explosive three million mark and plug the social security deficit.

Former Finance Minister Edouard Balladur, the most likely prime minister, has refrained from putting figures on promises to revive the economy and cut the jobless rate.

The new government will first order a thorough independent audit of public finances, he said.

"I would be surprised if this report did not reveal a public deficit of 350 billion francs (\$63 billion) in 1993," he said.

The UPF accused the Socialists of bucking responsibility and leaving the hot potato to the incoming government by setting up a showdown with the European Community or a trade war with the United States with threats to veto a U.S.-EC farm trade deal.

Mr. Chirac has pledged to stop the deal, which angered France's vocal farm lobby, even at the cost of a European crisis.

The UPF will have to resolve its own internal differences over Europe and economic policy.

While the main leaders are pro-European and have pledged to continue the Socialists' strong franc policy, they may face a guerrilla war from back bench anti-Maastricht rebels who oppose EC monetary union and favour floating the franc.

The outgoing government has left its successors to handle Mr. Mitterrand's controversial proposals to reform the constitution, introduce Swiss style referendums and inject a measure of proportional representation into the electoral system.

"Those in power seem to have only one remaining ambition: to make life impossible for the future government," RPR hardliner Charles Pasqua said.



The final battle?

After defeating congress bid to impeach him, Yeltsin is counting on the people to outlaw the legislature

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

MOSCOW — By winning a battle to avoid impeachment, President Boris Yeltsin increased his chances of final victory in a protracted campaign against hardline opponents of reform in Russia's supreme legislature.

Mr. Yeltsin survived a determined attack by the conservative Congress of People's Deputies when it failed by just 72 votes to impeach him Sunday.

"The Communist coup d'etat did not take place because the people won and reforms won," a triumphant Yeltsin told 5,000 supporters who had massed throughout the day in Red Square at the foot of the Kremlin.

The conservatives also turned on congress Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov after he proposed a compromise deal with Mr. Yeltsin. But they failed to get enough votes to sack him.

Although congress hardliners vowed to fight on still more furiously, they were left in a vulnerable position after alienating not only the president but also Russia's government, many of its

people and finally their own leader.

The congress apparently made a psychological mistake in slapping down Mr. Yeltsin's compromise bids. By piling insults on humiliations, it finally aroused a backlash of popular sympathy for the president.

Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet ministers, whose mixed political backgrounds had raised questions about whether they would stand by him in a crisis, came out openly behind him in a crucial show of support.

"Yeltsin remained the president but he ceased to be the leader of the nation. This is a triumph of the power of the people," deputy Sergei Badurin

After the vote, both sides claimed victory for themselves and for the people. But only Mr. Yeltsin, flanked by his cabinet, actually had a massed gathering of the people to address.

"Yeltsin remained the president but he ceased to be the leader of the nation. This is a triumph of the power of the people," deputy Sergei Badurin, leader of the hardline Russian Unity Faction, told reporters as he left the session.

A population weary of politics and struggling to survive drastic economic reform has for months largely ignored the long running battle for power between Mr. Yeltsin and critics of his free market reforms.

But on Sunday, the people

moved onto the street at last. A crowd of 60,000, the biggest seen in Moscow for two years, shook off their torpor and took out their tricolour flags to back Mr. Yeltsin. Only one sixth as many demonstrated against him.

Aides interpreted Mr. Yeltsin's success in awakening the sleeping Russian giant as a good sign for his planned referendum and vote of confidence in himself on April 25.

"Considering April 25, this is a victory," Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai told reporters.

If Mr. Yeltsin musters enough popular support, his referendum could kill off the 1,033 strong congress, a remnant of the Soviet era packed with old style apparatchiks hostile to reform.

He proposes to ask voters whether they want a new constitution which would abolish the supreme legislature and dissolve the smaller standing parliament pending new elections.

The failed vote to sack Mr. Khasbulatov drove a wedge between the congress and its chairman, virtually the only member of the legislature with the clout to stand up to Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Khasbulatov's willingness to try to reach a deal with Mr. Yeltsin could indicate that he now believes that the unruly supreme legislature's days are numbered.

Settler killed in Gaza Strip

(Continued from page 1)

Monday's victim, Shaya Deutch, 40, was stabbed near his greenhouse in the settlement of Kfar Yam, said Uri Ariel, a settler leader.

The army confirmed the stabbing saying forces were carrying out searches for the murderer.

With violence persisting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has sought to calm the public by urging more Israelis to volunteer for civil guard duty. A call Sunday by Mr. Rabin for high school students to use clubs to ward off knife attacks sparked heated debate from both liberals and right-wingers Monday.

The debate reflected the mounting frustration with a wave of attacks that has left 10 Israelis dead in March, mostly in individual stabbings or shootings. In addition, 25 Palestinians have been killed in the unrest, triggered largely by the stalemate in Mideast peace talks that followed Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December.

Israeli newspapers reported the government may issue orders to high schools, but Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said schools would have to issue such weapons. He added that self-defense training for teen-agers, once common in Israel, may be renewed.

Some liberals backed the idea.

"There is a certain reality today where 16- to 18-year-olds have to be alert. Nobody has been killed by a small stick or club... nor have bullets ever accidentally been fired from a stick," said Education Minister Shulamit Aloni of the left-wing Meretz Party.

But criticism came from leaders of the right-wing Likud Party, who argued it was the government's job to maintain law and order.

Lawmaker Benjamin Begin, son of the late former Premier Menachem Begin, accused Mr. Rabin of turning the public into "one big army."

He added that the government's suggestions it would trade land for peace with the Arabs also showed a "loss of direction."

Avraham Burg, head of the parliament education committee, mocked the idea, asking: "Where will they put it, in their school bag? Next to their sandwich?"

"There is no end to this arming of David and Goliath. On the first day of school they'll be handing out school books, notebooks and slingshots," Mr. Burg said on Israel Radio.

Monday's stabbing brought to 129 the number of Israelis slain during the Palestinian uprising against occupation that began in December 1987. Israeli soldiers or civilians have killed 1,070 Palestinians during the revolt.



Two Palestinians and a small boy in a Hebron registered car are held back at an Israeli army roadblock in Bethlehem (AFP photo)

In a heated public debate over how to stop the violence Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the government had not found a way to stop the killings.

"There is no problem in using all the force necessary to battle terror," Mr. Peres told army radio. "We have here a wave of knifings. We have not fully learned the most effective way to deal with it."

Mr. Peres said peace with the

Congress weakens Yeltsin further

(Continued from page 1)

asked the prosecutor-general to investigate the case.

The decisions by the Soviet-era congress on the last day of its session deepened the power struggle between Mr. Yeltsin and the legislative branch. The constitutional crisis has paralyzed political life for nearly a year.

Mr. Yeltsin, angered by the congress, might hold his own referendum, said allies Sergei Filatov and Vladimir Lyssenko. The president wants to ask voters whether they trust him, whether they want a new election law and whether they want to replace the old Soviet constitution with a new charter that would eliminate the 1,033-member congress with a smaller bicameral legislature.

The emergency session of congress was called after Mr. Yeltsin declared "special rule" on March 20.

"We are talking about a fairly simple attempt to commit a coup d'etat," Mr. Khasbulatov said in his closing remarks. "The 9th congress has substantially defended this constitution, which is far from perfect, in a very critical situation."

He then took a final slap at Mr. Yeltsin with a mocking paraphrase of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin.

The referendum, about which neo-Bolsheviks have spoken and dreamed so much, will take place," Mr. Khasbulatov said. After the overthrow of the czar in 1917, Lenin had said: "The revolution, about which Bolsheviks have spoken so much, has taken place."

The president was not at the session Monday. Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said he was absent because it was the ninth day after the death of his mother — a day of remembrance under Russian Orthodox Church traditions.

Lawmakers Monday rescinded the president's 1991 decree that placed 66 regional appointees in power across Russia. Mr. Yeltsin relies on these personal representatives to promote his reforms.

No provisions were made for replacing these administrators, although the regions still have local councils elected before the Soviet collapse. There was no guarantee the Yeltsin appointees would step down.

The resolution, approved 535-213 with 31 abstentions, also urged Mr. Yeltsin to form a coalition "government of national accord," that presumably would include hardliners who want to slow down or reverse his economic reforms.

It also urged Mr. Yeltsin to surrender control of all executive bodies not mentioned in the constitution — an apparent reference to the layers of his reformist advisers and administrators he has established.

Mr. Kostikov denounced the congress' action as "a continuation of the destruction of the president," and he said that "adequate measures" would be

taken. He did not elaborate.

On a vote of 666-83 later Monday, the congress approved four questions for the April 25 referendum: Whether voters have confidence in Mr. Yeltsin; whether they approve of his free-market reforms; whether there should be early presidential elections; and whether there should be new parliamentary elections.

No date was given for the new elections. Presidential elections currently are scheduled for 1996, and parliamentary elections are set for 1995.

The question about market reforms is potentially hostile to Mr. Yeltsin, because Russians have seen their living standards deteriorate sharply in the past year. Many Russians support Mr. Yeltsin personally but are angry about soaring inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin originally proposed the referendum as a vote of confidence in him and as a chance for the people to approve a new constitution that would allow private ownership of land and replace the congress with a smaller legislature.

Mr. Khasbulatov threatened to renew impeachment efforts against Mr. Yeltsin if the president continued to incite the population to rebel against the communist-dominated congress.

During Sunday's pro-Yeltsin demonstration, when about 50,000 people rallied at the Kremlin gates, Mr. Khasbulatov said there were "open calls for revolt."

At the rally, Mr. Yeltsin said he would obey "only the will of the people," and he accused the congress of "stirring up all of Russia."

One lawmaker claimed to have been injured at the rally.

There has been violence on both sides of the political battle.

U.S. talks produced little — Ashrawi

(Continued from page 1)

preserve its credibility as an honest broker.

The Palestinian delegation, she said, discussed with American officials the Palestinian cause and briefed the American side on the Palestinian concept of the ways to achieve a just and lasting peace based on United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy.

The Palestinian delegation also stressed to the American officials the need to remove all obstacles blocking the way to peace so as to be able to achieve a peace settlement, she said.

"Among these obstacles are the Palestinian expellees issue and Israel's continued violations of human rights and disrespect

Balladur to form French cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

majority, you have made clear you wish for a new policy. This wish will be scrupulously respected," Mr. Mitterrand said in a live television address.

In an important signal to financial markets, he said France would uphold the European monetary system and the parity of the franc with the German mark.

Mr. Balladur was the unanimous choice of the Gaullist RPR and the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), which with their allies won 484 of the 577 National Assembly seats in an unprecedented landslide.

The winning rightist alliance and its allies gained 484 seats in the 577-seat assembly in Sunday's second-round voting. The Socialists and their allies took only 70 seats.

Mr. Mitterrand signalled that he did not wish to stand in the way of the effort by the conservative-centrist alliance to redress the nation's economic ills.

But, marking his own domain, he said he would oversee "the continuity" of foreign and defence policy.

Mr. Balladur, a soft-spoken technocrat, was considered a natural choice for premier, normally chosen from the party which gains the most seats.

He served as finance minister during the previous conservative government, from 1986-88.

The Gaullist RPR party, led by two-time Premier Jacques Chir-

Government briefs House in secret

(Continued from page 1)

The Islamist deputy said he had in his possession documents "from witnesses who saw what happened at the Intelligence Department" which prove what he described as falsification of evidence against him.

He would not, however, reveal the names of the witnesses or the capacity in which they attended the investigations.

The government had earlier presented the House with a brief report about the case in fulfillment of its constitutional obligation, but the report was challenged by Mr. Sheilat, who demanded a new inquiry into the case. The decision on whether to reinvestigate the case was to be decided in the special session.

The government was expected to come under fire on its policies vis-a-vis the peace process from Islamist and pan-Arabist lawmakers who have demanded that Jordan drop the talks (see related story).

Unofficial reports said the government was to brief the House on the peace process, but the news could not be confirmed.

No information was also available on what the government would say about the Jerusalem road on which work has been substantially delayed.

The House will hold its last meeting Wednesday when its fourth and last ordinary session ends. Officials have ruled out the convening of an extraordinary session.

Arabs defer response to invitation

(Continued from page 1)

World for failing to bring the issue of the exiles to the fore during the meetings in Washington.

Before agreeing to participate in the talks, the Palestinians have been seeking assurances that at the very least, Israel will not expel more Palestinians. But such assurances have not been forthcoming.

Jordan has indicated it will not participate in a new round of peace talks without the Palestinians. Syria and Lebanon are unlikely to go alone and risk a



A boy carrying a Soviet flag comes up to mounted security forces positioned around a pro-communist demonstration near the Kremlin (AFP photo)

Arabs defer response to invitation

(Continued from page 1)

split that would considerably weaken Arabs' bargaining position and end their commitment to a comprehensive settlement with Israel.

Saeed Erekat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks who also attended the Damascus meeting, said the gathering provided an opportunity for the Palestinians to explain their case.

"Those who had miscalculated our position now have a clear picture," he said.

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National Rally to be held Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Auto sports enthusiasts are still signing up for the first of this season's three national rallies, which will set off from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) Thursday evening.

25 competitors have already registered, with the deadline being Tuesday, and scrutineering set for Wednesday afternoon.

The night rally, which will be held in the north of the Kingdom, is expected to be contested by the country's top drivers vying for advanced placements in the 1993 Jordan Open Drivers Championship.

The 1992 champion Marwan Abu Hamad, and second placed Reimon Fleifel will be one of over 30 drivers taking part.

DAVIS CUP ROUNDUP

Switzerland join United States in first-round trash heap

By The Associated Press

IF LOSING the defending champion in the first round for the first time in 10 years wasn't bad enough, the Davis Cup also lost the runner-up Sunday when India eliminated Switzerland to start a wild day in tennis.

Trailing 2-1 after Saturday's doubles, Switzerland's Marc Rosset evened the score with India by winning the opening reverse singles match Sunday. 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 over teen-ager Leander Paes.

But 31-year-old, 14-year-pro Ramesh Krishnan became a hero by beating Jakob Hlasek 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 and sending India into a second-round meeting with France.

The weekend started with Australia eliminating the defending champion Americans by the end of Saturday's doubles. Australia

finished with a 4-1 victory, sparking discussion about the future of American captain Tom Gorman.

But besides India's upset, later Sunday the Netherlands rallied from a 2-1 deficit and having lost the first two sets of both reverse singles to beat Spain 3-2 in Barcelona.

Additionally, tiny Luxembourg beat Kenya 4-1 in Europe-Africa Zone 1 and will go through to the next round for the first time ever. It plays Belgium next month.

In other World Group matches, France completed its 4-1 victory over Austria; Sweden swept Cuba 5-0; Czechoslovakia beat Denmark 4-1; Germany finished off Russia 4-1 as did Italy over Brazil.

In zonal play it was Japan 5, Hong Kong 0; China 3, Iran 2; Thailand 5, Pakistan 0; Malaysia 4, Jordan 1; Hungary 4, Finland

1; Zimbabwe 4, Norway 1; Argentina 4, Mexico 1; Canada 3; Chile 1; and Peru 5; Paraguay 0.

Netherlands 3, Spain 2: At Barcelona, Paul Haarhuis and Mark Koevermans both battled back from two sets down as the Netherlands rallied to advance to a quarterfinal matchup against Sweden to be played in the Netherlands.

Haarhuis tied the match at 2-2 by beating Carlos Costa 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, (8-6), 6-4. Koevermans then beat Sergi Bruguera 3-6, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a match that lasted 4 hours, 32 minutes.

Sweden 5, Cuba 0: At Kalmar, Sweden, Stefan Edberg and Nicklas Pietrangeli completed a sweep by winning their reverse singles. Edberg, ranked third in the world, beat Mario Tabares 6-3,

6-2, while the 19-year-old Kulti beat Juan Antonio Pino 6-4, 6-4.

Czechoslovakia 4, Denmark 1: At Copenhagen, Karel Novacek beat Frederik Fetterlein 6-4, 6-4 after Kenneth Carlsen got Denmark's only victory by beating Martin Damm 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Italy 4, Brazil 1: In Modena, Italy, Jaime Oncins beat Omar Camporese 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to earn Brazil's lone consolation victory. Italy had clinched the victory and a berth in the quarterfinals against Australia with a victory in Saturday's doubles. Diego Nargiso beat Cassio Motta 6-1, 6-2 to complete the rout.

Asia-Oceania Zone Group 1 Japan 5, Hong Kong 0: At Hong Kong, Shuzo Matsuoka beat Michael Walker 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 and Yasufumi Yamamoto beat Kong's Colin Grant 6-2, 6-1.

Milan still confident

ROME — (R) Ruud Gullit believes AC Milan are emerging from their poor patch of form which cost them their 58 game unbeaten record and will go on to claim the Italian Championship with a flourish.

Gullit, whose goal Sunday rescued Milan from a second successive league defeat and earned them a 1-1 draw at Torino, said he expected them to overcome a 2-0 first leg deficit against Roma in the Italian Cup semifinals Tuesday.

"We are a side of great pride and we proved that we are not finished. Our recent defeats by Roma in the cup and by Parma in the league were merely isolated incidents," said Gullit, a second half substitute against Torino.

Milan coach Fabio Capello, whose side chase an unprecedented treble of league, cup and European Cup, was in equally confident mood.

"Anyone who was worried about our stamina and freshness has had his worries answered," Gullit, who was being rested for Tuesday's encounter with Roma before being sent on to revive Milan's fortunes after they conceded a first minute goal Sunday, is looking forward to the Roma cup tie.

Roma coach Vujadin Boskov, who rested German Thomas Haessler Sunday, is not prepared to make any predictions.

"We obviously start against Milan with a nice advantage, but they're still a great side," he said. The other cup tie Wednesday is an all Turin affair with Torino meeting Juventus in a derby that resumes with the score 1-1.

Juventus struggled to overcome second from bottom Ancona Sunday, winning 1-0 away thanks to a 79th minute header from Brazilian defender Julio Cesar.

Wachter clinches overall title

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Racing under pressure on the final day of the season, Anita Wachter of Austria stayed cool and captured her first women's overall World Cup title Sunday.

Wachter, 26, knew that her German rival, Katja Seizinger, would be unable to mount a real challenge in the final slalom. But Wachter still had to complete both runs and finish in the top 15 in order to get the points necessary to claim the title.

And that's exactly what she did.

Seizinger took a four-point lead into the race but she finished 18th and got no points.

Vreni Schneider of Switzerland won the race and captured her fourth slalom title with another of her trademark comebacks.

The fourth-month World Cup season ended with Thomas Fogdö of Sweden winning the final race and clinching the men's slalom title.

Martinez wins Slims of Houston

HOUSTON (R) — Third seed Conchita Martinez of Spain ran unseeded German Sabine Hack ragged Sunday to win the \$375,000 Virginia Slims of Houston tennis tournament.

Martinez, playing with fractured finger, scored a 6-3, 6-2 victory in one hour and 22 minutes after receiving a shot of novocaine to numb the pain in her racket hand.

"This will help me a lot for my confidence," said Martinez, who earned \$75,000 for her second title of the year and will move up to seventh in the world to equal her career best ranking.

"The win yesterday was especially good," she said of Saturday's semifinal upset of top seed

Gabriela Sabatini. "It gives you energy."

Hack also reached the final with an upset win. But instead of being energized, the German was left drained after taking more than three hours to defeat fourth seed Jana Novotna late Saturday night.

"I was a little impatient, maybe a little tired mentally," admitted Hack, who had won just one match in 1993 prior to this tournament.

Martinez, a clay court specialist, drilled 10 winners, mostly off her forehand, and wore the German out by forcing her to scramble around the court.

But the Spaniard said it took her some time to get used to

Hack's heavy topspin groundstrokes.

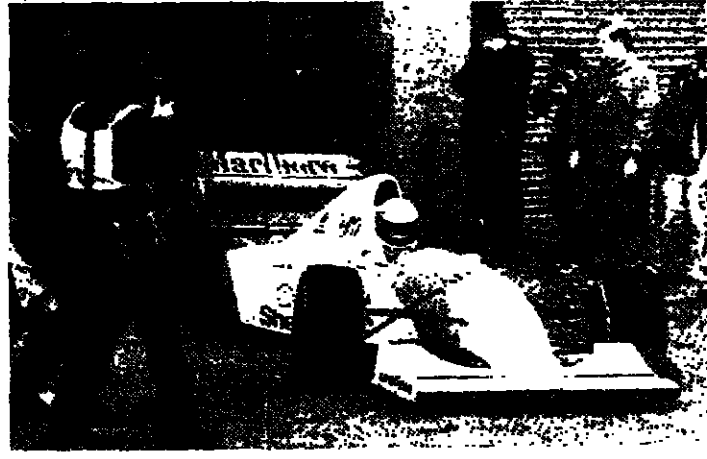
"It was difficult," said Martinez, who plans to take three weeks off to give her finger a chance to heal.

"I just had to get used to the bounce of the ball. It was really coming with a lot of topspin and it bounced different," added Martinez, who fell behind 3-1 in the first set.

When Martinez figured out how to handle Hack's topspin, the German never had a chance.

Martinez ran off the next five games to take the first set and dominated the second as well.

"I'm feeling pretty good," she said.



Ayrton Senna behind the wheel of his McLaren (AFP photo)

Senna wins Brazilian Formula 1 Grand Prix

SAO PAULO (AP) — Ayrton Senna won the rain-plagued Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix auto race Sunday and leapfrogged past archrival Alain Prost in the season standings.

The Brazilian driver, a three-time world champion, took the lead on the 42nd lap after a torrential downpour caused Prost to skid into a stalled car and slide off the track.

Senna, driving a McLaren-Ford, finished the 71 laps around the twisting 4.325-kilometre Interlagos track in 1 hour, 51 minutes and 15.485 seconds. His average speed was 165.601 kilometres per hour. He credited his victory to God.

"When he wants something to happen nothing can change it," Britain's Damon Hill was second in a Williams-Renault. Michael Schumacher of Germany was third in a Benetton-Ford, and Johnny Herbert of England took fourth in a Lotus-Ford.

Rookie sensation Mark Blundell of Britain, finishing in points for the second straight race, was fifth in a Ligier-Renault. Italy's Alessandro Zanardi took sixth in the second Lotus-Ford.

Senna, starting in third, scooped past Hill at the race start and tried to pressure Prost.

But the Frenchman, also a three-time champion, took advantage of the pole position and opened up a wide lead in his powerful Williams-Renault.

Senna lost a further position on the 11th lap when Hill passed him, and then dropped back to fourth when he was penalized 10 seconds for passing another car while a yellow caution flag was out and Schumacher zoomed by.

Hill, who returned with the lead, held off Senna until the 42nd lap, when the Brazilian dashed past on a curve.

The two traded fastest laps as they darted in and out among slower cars. But Senna gradually widened his lead, and hill gave up the chase.

"I had a car I could win with," said Hill, the son of racing legend Graham Hill. "But I ran into traffic and decided it was best to hold on with second place."

Kenyans plot victory like a military campaign

BILBAO, Spain (R) — Individually and collectively, Kenya sounded a chilling warning to the athletics world at the weekend.

With another World Championships just over the horizon, the Kenyans unveiled yet another remarkable long distance talent in William Sigei, winner of the men's cross country title in the Basque town of Amorebieta Sunday.

They then revealed they had plotted Sigei's victory with the meticulous precision of a military campaign.

"Things went exactly as we wanted," Kenyan chief coach Mike Kosgei reflected shortly after Sigei had headed all of his team mates across the finish line in front of twice champion Khalid Skah.

The Kenyans had been planning Skah's defeat since last year's Barcelona Olympics when the Moroccan finished as the controversial winner of the 10,000 metres.

Skah was initially disqualified for receiving illegal assistance

from a lapped teammate but was reinstated on appeal.

Kenyan Richard Chelimo was the victim on that occasion, enjoying the status of Olympic champion for less than 24 hours before being relegated to second place.

The decision understandably angered the Kenyan team who briefly considered pulling out of the Olympics.

They have not forgiven Skah and if any further incentive were needed the outspoken Moroccan himself provided it shortly before Sunday's championships.

"Skah said it was going to be easy for him because (John) Nguigi was not there and Chelimo wasn't there," Coggi said.

Nguigi, who has won the title a record five times, is currently suspended for refusing to take a drugs test while Chelimo was not selected.

In their absence, the Kenyans decided national champion Sigei was the man to take the title and designated Dominic Kirui and Chelimo's brother Ismael Kirui as

pacemakers.

For most of the race, on a fast well grassed surface ideally suited to Africans, Sigei kept out of trouble in third place.

"We were taking care of them," Coggi explained. "We didn't want anybody to spike him. That was why he was running alone."

Then, in the final straight, Sigei loped easily to the front to win by five seconds from Dominic Kirui with Ismael Kirui in third place.

Coggi sees a clear resemblance between Sigei and Nguigi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000 metres champion.

"He has the long legs. If there was mud he could manage. If it's raining Sigei could manage," Coggi said.

As Skah knows only too well the Kenyans have employed similar tactics in the past on the track.

Two years ago Chelimo paced Moses Tanui to the world 10,000 metres title in Tokyo while Thomas Osano slowed down a following group which included eventual bronze medalist Skah.

Marseille may sign Scifo

MARSEILLE (R) — French champions Marseille said Monday they are on the brink of signing Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo for Torino for next season. "Unless there is a dramatic development, Scifo will be a Marseille player next season," the club's Vice-President Jean-Louis Leveau told reporters. Scifo is under contract with his Italian club until 1994 but said recently he would welcome a return to the French League. The gifted Belgian is greatly admired in France where he spent three seasons with Bordeaux and Auxerre.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSHCH
Tammam Hirsch Services Inc.

JUSTICE IS NOT ALWAYS SERVED

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 8 4

♥ Q 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 6 4

EAST

♠ K 6 2

♥ 10 8 4 3

♦ 9 7 5

♣ 10 8 4

SOUTH

♠ 9 8 7 5

♥ A 3

♦ A K J

♣ A Q J

♠ A K 3 2

The bidding:

South West North East

4 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

In a perfect world, anyone making the technically correct play would earn a good score. In real life, players who choose the percentage line know their fate is in the hands of the gods. The odds can be capricious indeed! Those choosing a 70 percent line know it is likely to fail three times in 10.

North-South were using a 28-29 point range for opening bids of four no trump. North wisely decided that, with a balanced hand, intru-

ducing a five-card suit at the five-level might cause more problems than it would solve, and opted for the value bid of six no trump.

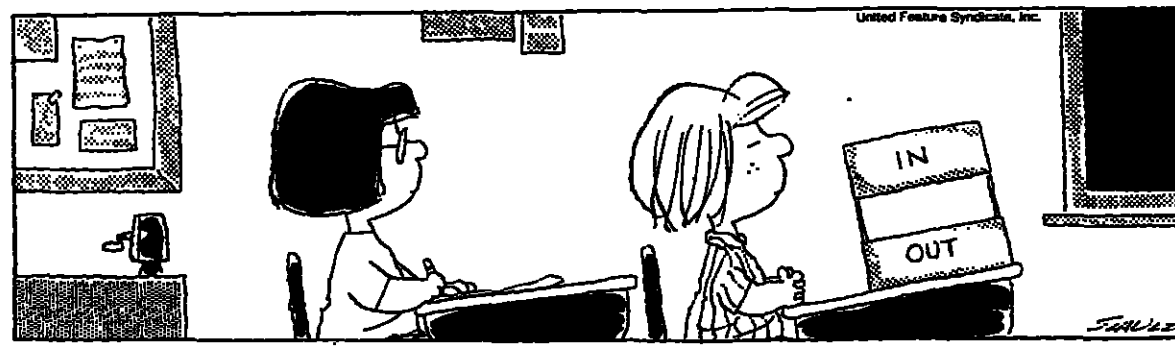
West led the queen of clubs against six no trump. Looking only at the North-South spade holding, how would you play the spade suit knowing you need to develop it for the loss of only one trick?

At first glance, it might seem like a pure guess. If West holds the jack of spades, it is correct to cash the ace of spades and finesse the ten. But give West the king of spades instead of the jack, and now the winning line is to go up with the queen on the second round.

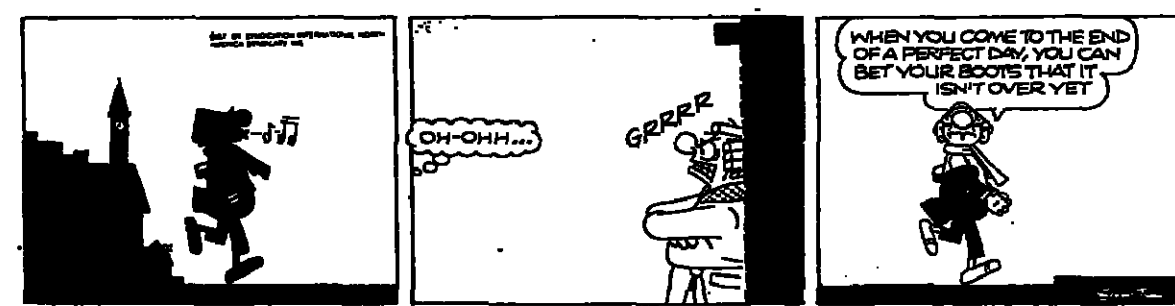
However, that's true only when the suit breaks 3-3. The more likely division is 4-2. Now, when West follows low to the second spade, it does not help to finesse the ten. If that finesse to a doubleton king, the jack must still score a trick. Your extra chance is to rise with the queen, hoping either to drop a doubleton jack with East or to find the spades 3-3 with West holding the king.

South knew all this, unfortunately. When the percentage play of leading to the queen of spades at trick three failed, so did the slam-by two tricks.

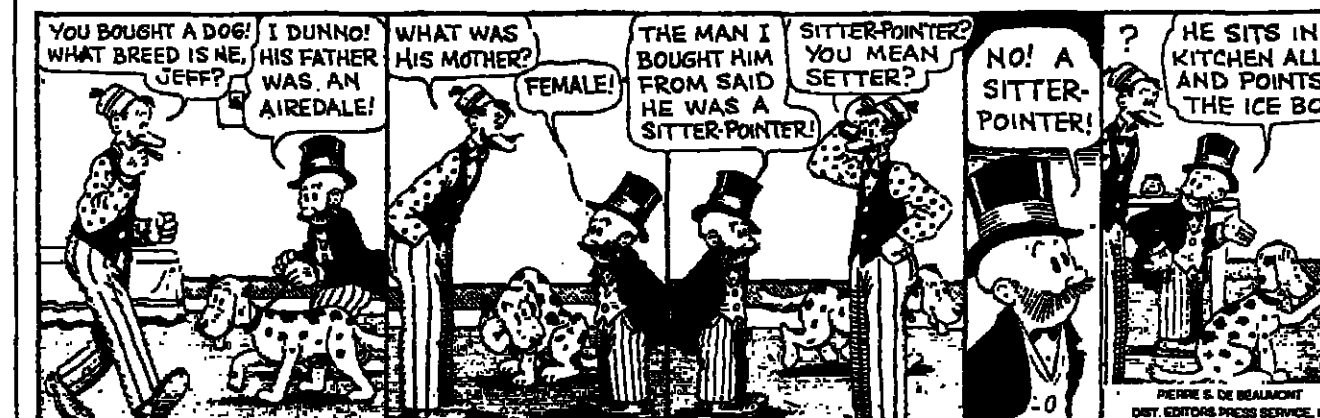
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Apple Moon Squares to Jupiter, Sun and Venus can produce some pretty startling events that could through you offbalance and deter you from your course of well planned events.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day when a new set of circumstances intrigue you and yet the time is not yet ripe so it would be in poor judgment to encourage them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find the accepted and proven methods by which you have performed whatever your tasks are most acceptable to those with whom you have to deal.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A direct outspoken associate you have known for sometime will expect you to go through with agreements made before going on to modern appeals.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think in terms of how you can render some distinct service to those who have been helpful to you in the past instead of buying a newcomer with favours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind for a good time today should be pleasures that have been consistently agreeable and satisfying to you and companions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider what your long range

policies and desires have been at your home and continue going after them with steadfastness for your true success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be wise now to concentrate upon principles and tenets you have found to work for you over a period of time, don't throw them over for new untried ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for some ways to use your property and possessions to greater advantage than you have been able to but don't take chances with your money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can have a happy day at the accepted delights that you and your chosen romantic partner have found to be gratifying in the past.

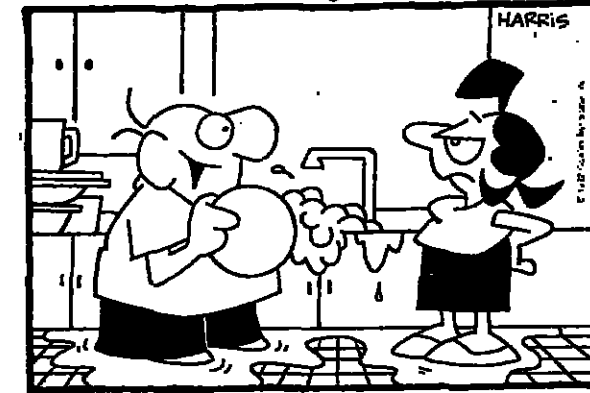
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A purposeful friend who has been loyal when you needed that persons guidance is available to be helpful to you at this time when you need it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you have been striving to do to make your personal life happier and more in tune with your basic needs, pursue these objectives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) To be a good citizen today it is best to do those things which are regarded as evidence of having your community interests at heart so don't make new waves.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Washing dishes is fun if you pretend you're Godzilla and the forks are submarines..."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NACHT

GULEN

UNCOBE

MYLLAC

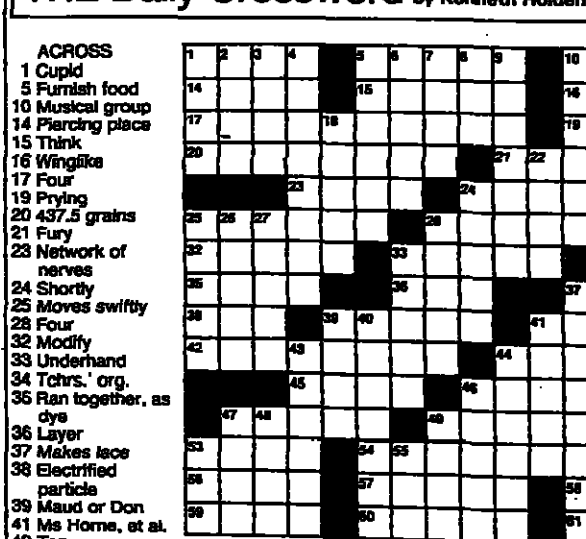
Answer here: TO

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOLIO DAILY DABBLE POTENT

Answer: The kind of fine many salesmen like to use—DOTTED

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Holden



13 Unimaginative

18 Strange

22 Glutinous

24 Cobs

25 Wort

26 Permit

28 Office worker

28 Motif

28 Inspire

30 Repair the mechanism

31 Part

37 Wire

38 Pleasant

40 Gate rid of

41 Sierra

43 Like some movies

46 Incense

47 Vexed

48 Party spread

49 Egress

50 Pudding fruit

51 This puzzle has five

52 Long time

53 Spoiled

55 Bank acct.

56 Bank acct.

57 Bank acct.

58 Bank acct.

59 Bank acct.

60 Bank acct.

61 Bank acct.

62 Bank acct.

63 Bank acct.

64 Bank acct.

65 Bank acct.

66 Bank acct.

67 Bank acct.

68 Bank acct.

69 Bank acct.

EC: Japan must allow bigger European presence

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will not fully belong to the international community until European companies receive the same chances in Japan as Japanese companies enjoy in the European Community, EC Vice President Martin Bangemann said Monday.

"Japanese companies have a strong presence in Europe, and Japan cannot be a member of the new global partnership unless it is the same in all respects," he said. "A European presence is essential."

Speaking at a meeting of the European Business Council, a private industry group, Mr. Bangemann said the EC has made major concessions in multilateral trade negotiations that have not brought fully fair trade between Japan and Europe.

He said the European industrial climate does not prevent Japanese auto makers from setting up plants in Europe, while most European companies still find it impossible to manufacture in Japan.

"We explicitly avoided blocking any Japanese transplants in Europe because we believe it is essential to have (Japanese) industry actually present — not just selling cars — in Europe," he said. "But it is difficult to refer to equal chances for European companies in Japan."

The EC and Japan now are negotiating how many cars Japan may sell in Europe this year under a 1991 agreement to limit Japanese auto exports. No agreement has been reached because of the two sides' differing predictions on how much the European market will shrink this year.

Gulf Air to invest in Jet Airways

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf Air is to invest in a new Indian domestic airline to be launched next month, company officials said Monday.

Hamad Al Medfa, the company's executive vice president for marketing, said Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways would ready to participate financially in the new airline. Jet Airways, but were awaiting the approval of Indian authorities.

"With regard to Gulf Air participation, it's still in the pipeline, we are waiting clearance of the authorities in India," he told reporters at press conference.

Mr. Medfa was speaking at the opening of the two-day annual marketing conference at company headquarters in Bahrain.

Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, has allocated \$10 million for advertising over the next two years.

Abdul Rahman Al Gaoud, executive vice president of operations, meanwhile confirmed reports that the company was studying the possibility of floating shares to the public. He said the final decision was up to the owner governments.

"The idea is there and has been studied, but the decision is left to the governments who own the company," he said.

According to Mr. Medfa, the new Indian airline will launch its services next month and efforts are under way to get the green light from the Indian authorities.

"Jet Airways is in the process of receiving their final authorisation from the ... government of India," he said. "Information that I have is that they are launching their services on April 17."

He said Jet Airways already had leased four new Boeing 737-300 aircraft from Ansett of Australia, and four more would join them in September.

"The airlines are on their way to India for the launch," he said.

Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways are pursuing the deal through Jet Air Travel Agency, the Indian subsidiary of Gulf Air, in which they are shareholders.

Gulf Air also is investing \$6 million in a \$30 million hotel and catering project set up through Taj Group at Bombay's International Airport.

The investments are part of an expansion programme by Gulf Air, which is expecting a turnover of \$1 billion in 1993.

It has embarked on a \$2.2 billion fleet expansion that will add nine more aircraft to its present fleet of some three dozen Boeing 767s, Boeing 737s, Lockheed Tritons and Airbus A320s.

Yeltsin acts to raise living standards

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Sunday acknowledged the crippling effects of his economic reforms on large segments of society and issued decrees to help those hit hardest.

Mr. Yeltsin doubled the minimum wage, increased allowances for students and the disabled, improved health care funding for government workers, and gave regional governments the right to stabilize skyrocketing prices for basic goods.

The measures fulfill pledges in Mr. Yeltsin's March 20 televised speech to accelerate free-market reforms, which have been thwarted by hard-line lawmakers and bureaucrats.

That speech, in which Mr. Yeltsin threatened to impose "special rule" and seek a confidence vote in a referendum, touched off Russia's worst political crisis since the 1991 coup.

Mr. Yeltsin's decrees were made public on the third day of an emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies called to resolve the crisis. The decrees, signed Saturday and Sunday, would:

- Double the minimum monthly wage to 4,500 roubles (\$6.57).
- Give the government two months to come up with procedures to ensure Russians earn enough money or receive adequate pensions.
- Increase tax incentives for the production of consumer goods, and reconsider special benefits granted to exporters, such as tax exemptions and exemptions from the law requiring foreign currency earnings be sold back to the state for roubles.
- Increase funds for health care for government workers.
- Step up social support for the poorest sections of society, such as special stores.
- Increase allowances for students and the disabled. A new \$1 million fund will be created to help the disabled.
- Give regional governments the right to freeze prices for basic goods and services, using their own funds.
- Improve benefits for the military, including better housing and compensation for victims of accidents, military exercises and working with nuclear weapons.
- Require government agencies to consider the social consequences of all economic reforms and their effect on living standards.
- Require the cabinet to consult with trade unions about wages and prices.
- Mr. Yeltsin also promised March 20 to speed up privatisation of land and businesses, care for the growing number of unemployed, fight inflation, and stabilize the sinking ruble.

GATT: World trade growth rises for first time since 1988

GENEVA (AP) — U.S. economic recovery led a rise in world trade last year, reversing a four-year slide in trade growth, a report by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said Sunday.

But the report by economists for GATT, the global trade organization with more than 100 member nations, said problems threatened moderate world-trade growth that has been forecast for 1993.

Worries include uncertain prospects for economic growth in much of western Europe, including Germany, France and Italy, as well as Japan and the countries of the former Soviet Union, it said. Bright spots include eastern and central Europe and the "booming re-export trade between Hong Kong and China."

With Hong Kong acting as a gateway for Chinese exports and imports, the increase of such trade with the mainland increased strongly in 1992, the report said. Hong Kong's re-exports rose by 28 per cent to \$88.1 billion, the report said. It said a "substantial" share of the imports were re-exported, but it gave no figure.

The report, which expressed world trade both in volume and in dollar terms, said merchandise

trade volume grew 4.5 per cent in 1992.

That compares with growth of nearly nine per cent in 1988, followed by seven per cent the next year, five per cent in 1990 and only three per cent in 1991, the report said.

In dollar terms the value of world merchandise trade increased by 5.5 per cent in 1992 to \$3.7 trillion, it said.

"North America's recovery, centered in the United States, lifted the region's demand for imports in volume terms by nearly ten percent," the report said.

North American exports also grew because of increases in U.S.-Canadian trade and the import boom — up 17.5 per cent — in Latin America, mainly Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela, it said.

By travelling more, North Americans also helped fuel an eight per cent growth in trade in commercial services to \$960 billion, it said.

The Middle East, recovering from the Gulf war, also boosted imports strongly, 13.5 per cent for the second year in a row.

Eastern and central Europe reported their first growth increase in exports and imports since the overthrow of communism, with

trade shifting towards western Europe and away from the former Soviet Union.

"Western Europe's imports from central and eastern Europe, up an estimated 20 per cent in 1992, continued to be concentrated in the traditional categories of food, steel and clothing," it said.

But western Europe benefited even more, reporting an increase of 24 per cent in exports to the region because of the needs of the former communist countries to modernize factories and build new facilities, as well as to meet food and other consumer needs, the report said.

However, it said, "Germany's slow and then negative economic growth caused a slump in import growth from 13 per cent in 1991 to two per cent last year and was a key element in western Europe's lower import growth."

France's imports increased 3.4 per cent to \$240 billion, moving it ahead of Japan into third place among the world's leading importers for the first time since 1987, the report said. France overtook Japan mainly because of a "modest decline" of 1.8 per cent in Japan's imports to \$233 billion.

New French government has narrow economic options

PARIS (R) — Like a poker player with an unpromising hand, France's new centre-right government must play its cards skilfully if it is to revive the economy and keep the franc steady in Europe.

"Its room for manoeuvre is very tight. So all it can do is make a play to restore people's confidence," Philippe Cheval, an economist at Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), said Monday.

Swept to power in an electoral landslide, the centre-right's policy commitments and international constraints give it little scope quickly to reverse the rising unemployment that provoked massive rejection of the Socialists, economists said.

Yet that must be the top priority of centre-right leaders, already eyeing a presidential election due within two years and fearful that voters may have handed them a poisoned chalice.

"With a budget deficit at 300 billion francs (\$3.6 billion) and zero growth expected this year, they have very little room for manoeuvre in handling the burning issue of unemployment," Patrick Chaussepied of economic forecasting institute BIPE said.

The budget gap, which it has promised to plug, limits the government's scope to spend the economy back on track, although planned privatisations will provide extra cash.

Its scope to cut interest rates is limited by its strong political commitment to maintaining the

franc's link to the mark and, therefore, by how far Germany will ease its own rates.

The size of the task facing the new cabinet, likely to be led by Gaullist former finance minister Edouard Balladur, will be underlined by the first economic statistics it will receive.

Economists said the February jobsless total, due for release Tuesday or Wednesday, could well break three million, or more than 10.5 per cent of the workforce, for the first time.

French three-month interest rates are just below 11 per cent, a huge nine percentage points above inflation and three points greater than Germany's, where inflation is higher.

"This risk premium is entirely based on mistrust of the franc policy... (the government) must immediately make a clear declaration to keep the strong franc. And it must confirm within a week or two that it will make the Bank of France independent (of the government)," said BNP economist Wiltse Bailey.

If it succeeds in persuading the franc is not for devaluing, the gap between French and German interest rates should fall back sharply. Mr. Bailey says this success is "inevitable" but other analysts are less convinced.

The new government will also be hoping that the Bundesbank continues its recent easier money policy as Germany too struggles to climb out of recession.

If the German central bank eases policy again Thursday, as many economists expect, the Bank of France could start shaving its own official rates right away.

The centre-right has pledged to find an immediate 20 billion francs (\$3.6 billion), much of which it will pump into the building industry and small firms to create jobs quickly.

It has also promised to start scrapping some payroll taxes and will not try to slash 1993's budget deficit, likely to top 300 billion francs (\$54 billion).

Monthly inflation hits 225% in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — Monthly inflation in Yugoslavia hit a record 225.8 per cent in March, government officials have announced. The officials were quoted by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug as saying retail prices over the month ending March 21 rose by an average 4.3 per cent a day. The agency said retail prices in March were 133,975.4 per cent higher than in March 1992. With prices continuing to spiral upwards, some Yugoslav and Western economists predict the yearly rate could hit several million per cent. The Yugoslav economy has been hit by United Nations trade sanctions imposed because of Belgrade's alleged role in the war in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Mar 29/93	Mar 30/93
Sterling Pound	1.4870	1.4935
Deutsche Mark	1.6335	1.6253
Swiss Franc	1.5153	1.5055
French Franc	5.5540	5.5310 **
Japanese Yen	116.55	116.88
European Currency Unit	1.1878	1.1920 **

USD For STG
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Mar 29/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.21	3.21	3.25	3.56
Sterling Pound	6.12	6.00	5.81	5.81
Deutsche Mark	8.31	7.87	7.44	6.81
Swiss Franc	5.12	4.91	4.75	4.43
French Franc	10.87	10.37	9.37	8.43
Japanese Yen	3.56	3.37	3.31	3.34
European Currency Unit	9.63	9.13	8.63	8.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Mar 29/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	331.95	6.50	Silver	3.72	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Mar 29/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6876	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.0261	1.0312
Deutsche Mark	0.4225	0.4246
Swiss Franc	0.4563	0.4586
French Franc	0.1241	0.1247
Japanese Yen	0.5873	0.5902
Dutch Guilder	0.3754	0.3773
Swedish Krona	0.0893	0.0897
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0433
Belgian Franc	0.02042	0.02052

Other Currencies

Mar 29/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8030	1.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.0370	0.0420
Saudi Riyal	0.1827	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2450	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7590	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.3050	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.4080	1.4200

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	27/3/93	Close	28/3/93	Close
All-Share	197.03		196.44	
Banking Sector	137.00		135.91	
Insurance Sector	215.15		215.02	
Industry Sector	280.55		279.89	
Services Sector	258.56		263.90	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2433/38	Canadian dollar
	1.6240/50	Deutschemark
	1.8270/80	Dutch guilders
	1.5053/63	Swiss francs
	33.50/54	Belgian francs
	5.5211/13	French francs
	1601/1606	Italian lire
	116.83/88	Japanese yen
	7.7210/310	Swedish crowns
	6.9200/300	Norwegian crowns
	6.2500/600	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4905/15	
One ounce of gold	\$331.55/331.95	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARAFAT
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
CLASSIFIED MARKET RATES PRICE LIST FOR MARCH 29/03/1993

COMPANY'S NAME

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
	JD PRICE		
ABNA BANK	171,250	132.000	131.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15,873	5.080	5.050
STATE OF JORDAN	171,250	132.000	131.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	233,747	3.850	3.850
THE JORDANIAN BANK	42,884	3.910	3.920
JORDAN KIBANAT BANK	4,383	2.500	2.460
ABNA INVESTMENT BANK	40,383	5.450	5.450
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,000	4.000	4.000
ABNA BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	20,562	4.230	4.200
JORDANIAN BANK	10,073	3.180	3.180
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,625	6.000	6.250
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	25,422	2.820	3.150
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	34,546	1.780	1.750
ABNA BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,390	3.410	3.400
JORDANIAN BANK	36,630	3.600	3.600
JORDANIAN BANK	171,250	132.000	131.000
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U.N. relief convoy evacuates Srebrenica sick and wounded

TUZLA, Bosnia (R) — A relief convoy evacuated more than 2,300 sick and wounded women, children and elderly people from the encircled Muslim town of Srebrenica Monday, U.N. officials said.

The latest U.N.-brokered ceasefire seemed to be holding throughout the embattled republic since the truce went into effect Sunday, U.N. officials said.

"The convoy of 19 trucks with the sick and wounded left Srebrenica this morning," Lyndall Sachs from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told Reuters in Belgrade.

The convoy was 20 minutes away from Caparde on its way to the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla, U.N. military observers said.

Peter Kessler, UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo, said 264 women and 387 children on the trucks had serious medical problems.

Another U.N. aid convoy prepared to set out Monday for Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, Ms. Sachs said. "It will push on to its destination the minute we hear that the convoy with Srebrenica evacuees has left the Zvornik area," she said.

The 16-truck convoy carried tents, plastic sheeting and food. The evacuation of Srebrenica's sick and wounded and free passage of aid to the enclave were part of an agreement hammered out Friday between the U.N. Protection Force commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, and Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic.

Victor Andreev, UNPROFOR civil affairs coordinator, said a general agreement had been reached with the Bosnian Serbs "that those who lay down their arms can leave Srebrenica."

Mr. Kessler said thousands of people were milling around on the town's streets, making relief work difficult to organise.

The problem was the limited U.N. presence on the ground necessary to maintain order as the convoy loads, he said.

"There are three UNHCR staff, a handful of UNPROFOR officers and then just town fathers and their appointed representatives for crowd control," Mr. Kessler said.

A relief convoy for Zepa, stopped Sunday in Zvornik by Bosnian Serbs, demanding to count ammunition and later stranded by bad weather, left for its destination Monday.

Bosnian radio warned the situation in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia was deteriorating rapidly.

It said Gorazde has received no recent aid after several inbound convoys were blocked and air-drops were becoming scarce.

"People will begin starving as they are in Srebrenica if supplies don't get through soon," the radio said.

UNPROFOR said the ceasefire that went into effect Sunday was generally holding in Sarajevo and across Bosnia.

Bosnian radio said Sarajevo was quiet and reported unusual tranquility throughout the republic although it said Bosnian Serbs were continuing an overnight assault on the town of Turbe.

Bosnian Serbs reported violations by Muslim and Croat forces in Capljina in Herzegovina, Doboj in northern Bosnia, Rajlovac and Ilijas near Sarajevo and incidents near Foca and Teslic.

Mr. Andreev was not optimistic the truce would hold for long. "I think we will see further up and down on our way... I'm not very optimistic," he said. "It takes time and pressure."

Germany, brushing off Serb threats to shoot down its aircraft, joined the United States and France in high altitude air-drops over Bosnia and said it would continue the night time missions Monday.

Captain Juergen Dietschmann, the pilot of Germany's first plane to join the air-drops Sunday night, told a news conference at Rhein Main Airbase the first flight went off without a hitch and said the next flight was scheduled for Monday night.

"It was dark and there was cloud cover," he said. "The mission went off as planned."

Capt. Dietschmann said that because of threats to shoot down German planes he was slightly nervous before the flight but that



Sarajevo children take advantage of the ceasefire to play 'war games' in the snow. The ceasefire which took effect at noon is being respected apart from sporadic sniper fire (AFP photo)

once the mission had started all his fears vanished.

Fighting flared up in northern Dalmatia, Croatia, after two days of calm, Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

Croatian radio reported Monday morning a general alert in the port of Zadar after a Serb artillery attack.

Croatia's government resigned Monday and Prime Minister Hrvko Sarinac said he would discuss any new mandate with President Franjo Tudjman, Croatian Radio reported from Zagreb.

"The Croatian government has resigned," Croatian radio said after receiving a statement from Mr. Sarinac following a meeting of government ministers.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Monday accepted the resignation of his government and appointed the head of Croatia's state-owned oil company as the new prime minister.

"President Franjo Tudjman accepted today the resignation of Prime Minister Hrvko Sarinac and the members of the Croatian government," the president's office said in a statement. "Nikica Valentic has been given the mandate to form a new government."

Mr. Valentic was expected to meet Mr. Tudjman later Monday to discuss the new administration.

Presidential spokeswoman Vesna Skare said the move was expected following regional polls in February which completed the elections to bodies of a new independent Croatia.

"A complete reorganisation of the government will now take place," she said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President Al Gore said lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia's embattled Muslims remains a policy option as the United States pressures Bosnian Serbs to accede to a peace agreement.

NATO, E. European ministers urge Bosnian Serbs to sign peace plan

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO and its former foes, including Russia, urged the Bosnian Serbs Monday to sign an international peace plan to end the war in Bosnia, saying the conflict was "a serious threat to security and stability."

"In view of the agreement of the other interested parties, we call upon the Bosnian Serb leadership to agree to the peace plan," defence ministers from NATO, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union said in a statement.

While the Croats and Muslims have signed the plan, drawn up by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the Bosnian Serbs have so far refused to do so.

NATO is planning to send between 50,000 and 75,000 troops to enforce the agreement, but only when all parties have signed.

Russia, with traditional links to Serbia, also signed the statement after the meeting of more than 30 countries at alliance headquarters.

"We continue to be deeply disturbed by the situation in former Yugoslavia... which despite hopes of progress in the peace negotiations, remains a serious threat to security and stability," the statement said.

The ministers also agreed to cooperate more closely on joint military planning and exercises for future peacekeeping missions in post-cold war Europe, troubled by tensions and numerous conflicts from Nagorno-Karabakh to Bosnia.

"It is important in the present circumstances, where regional instabilities and risks have proliferated, that we continue to enhance our ability to work effectively together," the statement said.

NATO plans for enforcing the Bosnia peace plan may also include troops from Eastern European nations and perhaps Russia.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was expected to comment on the political crisis in Russia, which NATO is worried could bring an end to East-West cooperation if reforms fail.

Mr. Grachev had told NATO initially he would not be able to come, but changed his mind over the weekend when it seemed President Boris Yeltsin had beaten off the immediate threat to his power, officials said.

"Against the background of the range of crises which have developed in and around Europe, it is clear that peacekeeping in the broad sense has become an important instrument," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told the meeting.

However, there are serious problems with enforcing the peace plan in Bosnia.

NATO nations have been reluctant to commit forces, there are disagreements about how the command structure would work and the alliance's military authorities have expressed serious doubts about whether it can be enforced.

No major decisions were expected from Monday's meeting, partly because France — which has most of the U.N. forces already in Bosnia — is not represented. France does not attend meetings of NATO defence

ministers.

However, the alliance has completed plans to use fighters to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia, if and when the U.N. Security Council votes to do so.

The discussion of joint peacekeeping missions is part of a growing network of closer diplomatic and military ties between the 16-nation Western alliance and its former enemies.

But NATO has ruled out taking on any new members for now, despite the fact that many Eastern European nations, worried about growing instability in Europe, want to join the alliance.

Four Eastern European countries, nervous about the power struggle in Russia, said Monday they hoped political and economic reforms there would stay on track.

"This would have a positive impact on European security," defence ministers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia said in a statement.

"The ministers expressed their hope for the success of the developments in the Russian Federation that should enhance the political and economic reform process," they said.

Meanwhile, the United States said Monday it may commit ground forces to implement a peace plan for Bosnia and appealed for contributions from former enemies in Eastern Europe.

But U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence William Perry did not say how many troops Washington would consider sending as part of a NATO-led force.

COLUMN

Where's the beef? N. Zealand premier tells star's wife

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger brushed off the vegetarian views of Linda McCartney, wife of Beatles star Paul, on Monday, calling her a "spoilt little rich girl."

Linda McCartney has caused a stir in Australia and New Zealand, attacking the prime ministers of both countries for farming livestock. Linda, wealthy in her own right as part of the Kodak film empire, is playing in her husband's band which is currently touring New Zealand. Asked on Radio New Zealand about Linda's comments that, being a beef farmer, Mr. Bolger could not be very intelligent, the conservative New Zealand leader replied: "Well poor old Linda has got problems, hasn't she?" "She can go running around the world doing what she likes being a spoilt little rich girl," said Mr. Bolger. The prime minister said he had no plans to give up raising beef.

Officer's \$5 offer keeps man from jumping

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A white man who said he was distraught because he'd just been robbed by black youths of his last two dollars climbed down from a bridge after a black policeman offered him \$5. The man, identified by authorities only as Louis, climbed atop the Seventh Street Bridge over the Allegheny River around 7:30 p.m. Saturday (0030 GMT Sunday). Officer George Phillips, who is black, volunteered to join a medic and firefighter on a ladder 100 feet (30 yards) above the river. Officer Phillips tried to convince the man the robbery wasn't racially motivated. "They stole his cigarette lighter and two dollars. That's all he had to his name," Officer Phillips said. "He was distraught about blacks not liking him." Officer Phillips said he offered the man \$5 and gave him a lighter so he could smoke a cigarette as he spoke. The man finally came down about 9 p.m. (0200 GMT Sunday). "When he came down he wanted his five dollars and I gave it to him," Officer Phillips said.

Bostonians celebrate St. Pat's Day 2 weeks late

BOSTON (AP) — Boston's Irish got a late start on St. Patrick's Day Sunday with a parade delayed two weeks by a blizzard and then heckled by some who opposed a court ruling allowing a gay-pride group to take part. Police estimated that 175,000 to 200,000 people turned out, less than half what the crowd has numbered in past years. Some said bad weather Sunday, the delay and the gay-pride controversy hurt this year's celebration. Police reported no arrests as the parade wound through the Irish enclave of South Boston. The Irish American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Pride Group of Boston, taking part in the parade for the second consecutive year, marched under a shamrock-bedecked banner. More than a dozen police in riot gear escorted the group, and sharpshooters with rifles stood on rooftops. Some spectators heckled, and a teenage boy threw coffee into the face of one marcher, who was uninjured. Others hurled stink and smoke bombs along the parade route. The parade organisers, the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, had fought against allowing the gay group to march.

This one will run and run

ALGIERS (R) — He's hardly got his breath back after running across the Sahara Desert, but now he wants to do "something truly challenging" — run around the world in a year. "To show the extreme of man's endurance... I want to run round the world in one year," Kazakh athlete Marat Jilandaev, 29, told reporters in Algiers after smashing his own world record for vast distance running in extreme conditions. The slightly built Marat ran 1,700 kilometres across the Sahara in 24 days, losing five kilograms of weight and wearing out a pair of shoes along the way.

Pupils discipline striking teachers

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Schoolchildren in a black homeland stoned their teachers in a bid to force them to end a pay strike and return to class, the South African Press Association said. It quoted a witness as saying teachers at the school in Venda, who went on strike fled for their lives when their pupils attacked them.

Chinese reformer gets top post

PEKING (AP) — Vice Premier Zhu Rongji, a fast-rising star who has been China's trouble-shooting economics czar, was appointed second-in-command of the government Monday.

The National People's Congress also adopted constitutional amendments that legally enshrine the market-style economic reforms of senior leader Deng Xiaoping. Mr. Zhu has been at the forefront in implementing them.

The term "state-owned economy" replaces "state-managed economy," reflecting the government's goal of making state enterprises manage and support themselves.

The sentence: "The state practices planned economy on the basis of Socialist public ownership" was replaced with "the state practices Socialist market economy" — Mr. Deng's name for communism with free markets.

Mr. Zhu's promotion to first vice premier may help him consolidate a leading role in formulating economic policy. The 64-year-old former mayor of Shanghai is known for his strong support of Mr. Deng's reforms.

The Congress also approved three other vice premiers, eight state councillors and a full cabinet for five-year terms, completing its task of ratifying a new government lineup.

The nearly 3,000 delegates were not given a choice of candidates. The appointments had been decided earlier in secret by Mr. Deng and other Communist elders who remain China's most powerful men.

The new vice premiers include Foreign Minister Qian Qichen,

credited with restoring China's international standing after the vicious crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement, and outgoing Foreign Trade Minister Li Lanqing. Trade surged by more than one-fifth last year, contributing to China's 12.8 per cent economic growth.

Monday's voting completed a three-day process that swept the few remaining old revolutionaries from top-level government posts in a bid to ensure that power passes smoothly to a new generation of communist officials after the death of Mr. Deng, 88.

Under the plan, most of the seven members of the party politburo Standing Committee now also have key government jobs. Only a few of the new cabinet members are regarded as ideological hardliners, although leaders of the hardline camp remain influential behind the scenes.

No seats for France's National Front

PARIS (R) — France's far right National Front failed to win a single parliamentary seat in Sunday's general election, outflanked by a resurgent conservative right and penalised by a constituency-based voting system.

The party, seen as a pariah by the mainstream parties because of its aggressively nationalist, xenophobic policies, lost its only National Assembly seat when Deputy Marie France Stirbois fell to a Gaullist in the northern town of Dreux.

Party leader Jean Marie Le Pen trailed behind centre right candidate Rudy Salles in the Mediterranean port of Nice, while Mr. Le Pen's deputy Bruno Megret lost by 546 votes to Socialist Henri d'Attilio in a constituency outside nearby Marseille.

With just a few dozen seats still to count, outgoing Interior Minister Paul Quilès confirmed that the National Front would not be represented in the new parliament.

Mr. Le Pen noted that the party had won 12.5 per cent of the national vote in last Sunday's first round of voting, three percentage points ahead of the Communists who by contrast looked on the way to clinching more than 20 seats.

"The second round of voting has, as predicted, exacerbated the gaping injustice of the two round majority voting system," he said on French television, reflecting similar sentiments felt by all fringe parties.

Mr. Le Pen also attacked the new centre right majority, set to control four fifths of parliament.

"This crushing victory could crush the victors. This majority is a viper's nest riven with basic conflicts of interest on a whole series of issues including immigration, monetary policy and especially Europe," he said.

The right wing of the Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) — biggest party in the centre right

alliance — advocated ideas close to Mr. Le Pen's on clamping down on illegal immigrants and rejecting the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Moderate Gaullists and most of the more centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF) are, by contrast, pro-European.

Mr. Le Pen ran an uncharacteristically subdued campaign, only briefly causing a stir by claiming the French were subject to "ethnic cleansing" by immigrants in poor suburbs.

After last Sunday's first round, Mr. Le Pen decided to keep all 101 surviving National Front candidates in the race for parliament as a show of defiance against the voting system.

In the process, he coincidentally lent a hand to his arch enemy, Socialist Urban Affairs Minister Bernard Tapie, who won his seat outside Marseille thanks to a right wing vote split by the National Front.

Hype, hoopla, tight security reign as Oscar night nears

LOS ANGELES (R) — Oscar fever swept Hollywood Monday as an army of workers and entertainers put the finishing touches on the movie world's biggest, glitziest annual extravaganza.

Security was tight around the marble and glass Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for Monday night's Academy Awards show, reflecting organisers' concerns about last month's bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York.

But that didn't keep diehard movie fans away.

Dozens camped out overnight in stands set up outside the downtown Music Hall, staking out the best spots for gawking at the glittering parade of celebrities who will file out of stretch limousines and walk up the red carpet.

"It's the closest you're going to get to seeing so many stars on one night," said Mary MacLeod, 22, who quit her job at an insurance company in Sydney, Australia, to come and watch the Oscar arrivals.

People entering the stands were being scanned with metal detectors, nearby streets were blocked off and uniformed guards patrolled the area in twos and threes around the clock.

Elsewhere in tinsel town, nervous nominees have practised their acceptance speeches in preparation for the only awards ceremony with the power to make or break careers.

Studio bosses have polished up advertising campaigns to begin cashing in on their films' accolades almost as soon as they are handed out.

With excitement building toward Monday's night show, crews worked frantically to hang elaborate decorations and costumed dancers rehearsed their numbers.

When the curtain rises at 0200 GMT on the 65th annual Academy Awards and host Billy Crystal kicks off the show, about a billion people in 98 countries will be watching on television.

So powerful is the show's hold, that ABC was able to command a half million dollars for each 30 second commercial spot during the three hour plus telecast.

The Oscar ballots have already been tallied by accountants at Price Waterhouse — proud keepers of one of the world's best kept secrets — and the guessing game was in full swing.

From the gaming tables of Las Vegas to the studio backlots of Hollywood, Clint Eastwood's western *Unforgiven* has emerged as the betting favourite to ride off with the most major Oscars.

Eastwood's cowboy films have thrilled movie fans for decades but have long been ignored by Oscar voters. Most Hollywood insiders believe this is the year he will get his due.

Unforgiven — produced by Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. Studio — is the frontrunner for Best Picture, Best Director (Eastwood) and Best Supporting Actor (Gene Hackman).

But no one is ready to count out a pair of independently made British films — *Howards End* and *The Crying Game*.

The two low-budget productions bloodied the noses of the major studios in the nominations and may pull off an upset when the awards are handed out.

Howards End, a critically acclaimed romantic drama produced by Merchant-Ivory Productions and distributed by Sony



Clint Eastwood in the film *Unforgiven*

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Angolan factions agree to meet soon

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — U.S. officials said Angola's warring factions seemed prepared to meet soon but have not formally agreed to negotiate an end to the recently resumed civil war. Wrapping up talks with Angola's warring factions Sunday, Jeffrey Davidow, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told a news conference there was "coincidence of thought" between UNITA rebels and the Angolan government. "They seem prepared to meet under U.N. auspices by 12 April," he said. But, he added, "there is no agreement between the government and UNITA." Mr. Davidow said statements by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government in Luanda indicating it had rejected UNITA's proposals for talks did not reflect results of negotiations in Abidjan. A two-man MPLA team met with U.S. officials here Sunday.

2 MPs quit Seoul ruling party

SEOUL (AP) — A senior governing party leader dropped out of parliament and politics Monday because of mounting public criticism over his personal wealth, some of it allegedly acquired illegally. Also Monday, the National Assembly speaker, under pressure to give up his parliamentary seat for similar reasons, quit the governing Democratic Liberal Party but said he would keep his Assembly seat. A profusion of questions about politicians' personal wealth has arisen since President Kim Young-Sam took office last month, vowing to root out widespread corruption in South Korea. Kim Jai-Soon, a former National Assembly speaker and seven-term legislator, was the third member to resign from parliament under the pressure. He also said he would retire from politics.

S. Korea train accident toll hits 75

SEOUL (AP) — The death toll from South Korea's worst train crash rose to 75 as rescue workers in the southern city of Pusan recovered two more bodies early Monday, police said. The death toll could rise further because several dozen people injured in the accident were in serious condition, police said. The accident occurred Sunday in Pusan, the nation's second-largest city, 328 kilometres south east of Seoul. Some passengers appeared to still be trapped in the wrecked cars, the state KBS Radio reported early Monday. Police said two of the train's eight cars fell 4 metres off caved-in tracks and three other cars overturned.

Kanamaru released on bail

TOKYO (R) — Shin Kanamaru, the disgraced "kingmaker" of Japanese politics, left a Tokyo Detention Centre Monday after prosecutors questioned him for three weeks over tax evasion charges. NHK public television reported. Freed on bail, Mr. Kanamaru, 78, now faces trial on two counts of tax fraud for failing to report shady political donations he took from construction and bus companies between 1987 and 1989, evading a total of 1.04 billion yen (\$8.8 million) in income taxes. Last Saturday, prosecutors declared that they had completed their investigations into Mr. Kanamaru's tax affairs. Mr. Kanamaru posted bail of 300 million yen (\$2.5 million), NHK said. He was expected to be taken to his home in central Tokyo.

Actress Kate Reid dies

STRATFORD, Ontario (AP) — Kate Reid, one of Canada's best-known actresses, has died after a brief battle with cancer. She was 62. Reid, known for the commanding growl of her voice and her passionate characters, died at her Stratford home Saturday. Born in England in 1930 to a Canadian father and British mother, Reid began acting in Canada as a teenager and went on to win acclaim on Broadway, Hollywood and London's West End. She played the Ewing's Aunt Lil in the TV series *Dallas* and Queen Victoria in the television play *Disraeli*. Her theatre work included playing opposite Alec Guinness in *Dylan* and opposite Dustin Hoffman in *Death Of A Salesman* on Broadway. She also played big mama in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. She was at work filming *Murder In The Heartland*, an ABC television mini-series about a Nebraska mass murderer, when she became ill a month ago in Texas. Ms. Reid is survived by a daughter, a son and a granddaughter. A funeral was planned for Tuesday at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto.